

*Mark A McGee*

# Dealing With Faith Bullies

By

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# Introduction – Why We Need Faith Defense

The art of faith defense is as old as the history of the human race. In fact, faith defense was the first art God taught the first human being.

“Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, ‘Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.’” Genesis 2:15-17

God Created Adam, then placed him in the Garden of Eden and told him to “tend and keep it.” Remember that Moses, the author of Genesis, wrote everything God told him about the beginning of all things in the Hebrew language. What do the words “tend and keep it” mean in ancient Hebrew. “Tend” means to “work, labor” in the Garden. “Keep” means to “guard, protect, keep safe, preserve” the Garden. We understand that a garden needs someone working in it to plant and harvest, but why the need to protect it?

God had a powerful enemy – not as powerful as God, but still powerful. That meant what God Created for Himself had an enemy. That included the earth and the human race. That’s why God taught the first human the importance of faith defense at the very beginning of his life on earth. God Created Adam and Eve to rule and reign on earth with Him. Part of ruling with God meant guarding the earth from the enemy. How would Adam do that? By obeying every command of God. What was God’s first command to Adam? “... but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil

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you shall not eat.” That’s how faith defense began.

God requires faith defense from all His people. Read through the Bible from Genesis to Revelation and you’ll see thousands of people God has told to defend the faith. The Faith is God’s Word and faith in it. God’s Word has been under attack for thousands of years and the Lord is still calling on His people to defend it.

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## Satan – The First Faith Bully

Satan was the first faith bully. He bullied believers in the beginning because all of God's creatures believed in Him after God Created them. It was obvious to them that God was their Creator and deserved their worship and praise. Satan also wanted worship and praise, so he bullied angels in Heaven and people on earth to get it.

“Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, ‘Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?’ And the woman said to the serpent, ‘We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.’ Then the serpent said to the woman, ‘You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’” Genesis 3:1-5

The woman was very young – possibly created just days or weeks before her confrontation with Satan. She had little life experience – and to Satan she was fresh meat. Even worse, her husband Adam stood nearby and didn't do anything to protect her – the very thing God had told him to do.

Satan set the standard for faith-bullying believers. What you see Satan do to the woman is what faith bullies do to people who believe in God.

Here's how it works.

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1. Satan misquotes and misuses God's Word – that leads believers to get confused about what God said and what He meant by what He said
2. Satan questions God's honesty and sincerity – that causes believers to question whether they can really trust God in their daily lives
3. Satan questions God's motive and purpose – that leads believers to wonder if God really loves and cares for them
4. Satan questions God's Will – that causes believers to lose hope that God will really help them in their time of need

This is how Satan bullies Christians. These are his tactics against us – his schemes and tricks to deter us from being all we can be for the glory of God. However, we can't say we weren't warned. God inspired the Apostle Paul to write these words to believers almost 2,000 years ago.

“Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.” Ephesians 6:11-12

As we journey together to learn how to better defend the Faith, it's important we understand the enemy. Satan has not changed in thousands of years. He uses the same battle plan as he did against our ancient ancestors. Don't be fooled by Satan's smooth talking. Don't be misled by the cleverness of his attacks. Satan is a liar and everything he says is a lie. Anything presented as truth that is not confirmed by the Word of God is a lie. Don't trust your feelings. Don't rely on your emotions. Believe the Truth.

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“Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word. You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it. But because I tell the truth, you do not believe Me.” John 8:43-45

## Bertrand Russell – Faith Bully

Every generation has its favorite faith bullies and mine was Bertrand Russell. Russell was a British philosopher and logician. He was also one of the leading social critics of his time. He was born in 1872 and died in 1970 – my last full year as an atheist.

I read many of Russell's books, articles and essays in the 1960s and early 70s. Some of my favorites were "Why I Am Not A Christian," "Free Thought and Official Propaganda," "A Free Man's Worship," and "Am I An Atheist Or An Agnostic?" I say "were" because I stopped agreeing with Russell 40 years ago. Mr. Russell was wrong and my goal as a free-thinking person is to be right.

Bertrand Russell used to say, "No one can sit at the bedside of a dying child and still believe in God." I understand the argument because I used it, but how does sitting at the bedside of a dying child prove there is no God? It doesn't. What the question does is cause some people of faith to question God. Why would God let an innocent child suffer and die? For people who do not believe, the question confirms what they think about faith in God. They view faith as silly, childish, infantile.

Faith bullies say things like that to attack the minds and hearts of people. Most people love children and the thought of a child dying is difficult to accept. We look at children with hope for their future. When a child dies, their future is cut short. So, if there is a God, why would He let a child die?

Why indeed! It was never God's intention that children should die. It was never God's intention that anyone would die. He created the human

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race to live forever. So, who is to blame for the sad affairs of humanity that could see the death of a child? Let's place the blame squarely on the shoulders of the living beings who caused this terrible thing – Satan, Adam and Eve. Satan deceived the first woman and her husband stood by and watched it happen. That's who is to blame for the death of a child.

I realize that Russell would not agree with my defense because I believe in the God of the Bible. He didn't believe in God. He didn't believe in the Words of the Bible. Russell was an unbeliever. But that does not change the facts about the existence of God and the reliability of Scripture. If one person sees a burning building and another says there is no building so there could be no fire, it doesn't change the fact that a building is on fire and people's lives are in danger. I am not deterred from Truth just because some people don't believe it. Who is the fool? The person saying the building is on fire or the person standing in front of the burning building saying there is no building and no fire. The fool has said in his heart, there is no God.

Bertrand Russell said and wrote many other things during his lifetime to bully people of faith. He had a profound effect on people of my generation and the generation before, and he continues to impact the thinking of atheists and agnostics today. Because of that, we will revisit Russell's words again, along with those who are following in his bullying footsteps.

Russell may be dead, but his lies are still being told. And whose lies are they? They come from the first liar – the father of lies – Satan. Remember what we learned about how Satan attacks. Bertrand Russell was just a man. It is the spiritual power behind Russell and those like him that we need to guard against.

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## Christopher Hitchens – Faith Bully

(Editor’s note: This was first published in February, 2011, several months before Hitchens’ death)

Christopher Hitchens and I are almost the same age (he’s a year younger than me). He is a journalist and author. I am a journalist and author. He is an outspoken atheist and faith bully. I used to be an outspoken atheist and faith bully. That’s where the similarities end.

Christopher Hitchens calls the Gospel accounts “a practice of fraud.” I call the Gospel accounts God’s Truth. He says that only “stupefied peasants in the Jerusalem area” believed the Gospel. I say that tens of millions of intelligent, thoughtful, well-educated people around the world have believed the Gospel for the past 2,000 years. He calls Christianity the “Jesus myth.” I call Christianity the Jesus Miracle - “In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.” (John 1:4-5) Hitchens has called Christianity, Judaism, and Islam “the real axis of evil.” I believe that Christianity is the real **ally** of good in the world. He blames organized religion as “the main source of hatred in the world.” I believe that pure religion is the main source of **love** in this world – “Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.” (James 1:27)

Hitchens is a member of what has been called the New Atheism of the 21st Century. Hitchens, along with Richard Dawkins, Sam Harris, Victor Stenger, and Daniel Dennett, believe that recent advancements in

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science have made religion something that should no longer be tolerated. Hitchens and the others believe people who are members of the “enlightenment” should expose, criticize, and counter religion through rational argument. I am a member of the Body of Christ and believe that advancements in true science are more supportive of Christianity and the Bible than ever before. Christian apologists believe people who are members of Christ’s Body should expose, criticize, and counter “new atheism” through prayer and rational argument based on the Truth of God’s Word.

Hitchens is a faith bully, but don’t let him bully you. This so-called “new atheism” is not new at all. It’s the same tired, old argument unbelievers have been using against Christianity for centuries. Their use of the term “science” reminds me what Paul wrote Timothy almost 2,000 years ago – “O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called: Which some professing have erred concerning the faith.” (1 Timothy 6:20-21, KJV) Though it is not necessary for faith in Christ, scientific research during the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries is supportive of the Bible in many areas.

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## Christopher Hitchens – Reflections

(Editor's note: Christopher Hitchens died as I was writing this Faith Defense Manual. I blogged about it as soon as I heard the news.)

Earlier this year I called Christopher Hitchens a “**faith bully**.” He bullied people with his thoughts and words for decades. Yesterday, Hitchens died. Early reports say the cause was pneumonia, a complication of cancer of the esophagus.

I heard the news this morning and feel very sad about Hitchens' death. Christopher and I had much in common. We were both journalists and the same age (he was a year younger). We both became atheists and saw the world through similar glasses. I look at Christopher Hitchens and think, “there but for the Grace of God go I.”

I was also a faith bully and have never thought myself any better than Hitchens, Dawkins, or Russell. I know the power of their ideas, their words, and presence. Bertrand Russell's writings had a profound impact on me as a teenager and young adult. I made his thoughts my thoughts, his beliefs my beliefs. In the same way, a new generation of atheists have looked up to Christopher Hitchens and cheered as he attacked Christianity with his anger and rage.

I believe in the possibility that anyone, even the angriest atheist, can be saved. I've often said that if God could save me, He could save anybody. I still believe that, but am saddened when someone who knew the truth suppressed it to the end. How many times did Christopher Hitchens hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ? Hundreds of times? Thousands of times? He had so many chances.

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I am not happy that Christopher Hitchens is dead. He's not here to rail against Christ, but his anger and hate will be repeated in the minds and mouths of others who will take up his cause. As long as Christopher was alive, I thought, there was a chance for him to change. He said it wouldn't happen and, as far as we know, it didn't. He most likely died an atheist. According to the Word of God that he hated, Christopher Hitchens will stand before God "without defense." Those words are frightening to consider. I am so thankful to God that Jesus Christ is my Advocate and Defender.

Christopher Hitchens did not live in a vacuum. He left behind a wife, children, and many friends. Christians are a people of compassion because our God is a God of great compassion. I feel for the loss Christopher's family and friends are feeling today. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

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## Philosophers – Faith Bullies

Philosophers are people who are educated in the discipline of philosophy. Philosophy is the study of the fundamental nature of knowledge, reality, and existence. Philosophers often see themselves as being very wise. The word “philosophy” comes from the Greek word *philosophia* – love of wisdom. Philosophers may “love wisdom,” but they seldom have any (wisdom).

One of the problems with philosophers is they want everyone to know how wise they are – so they teach, hold seminars, and write books. Their subjects include political philosophy, moral philosophy, religious philosophy, metaphysical philosophy, and epistemology. They will gladly share their ideas about logic and aesthetics, along with the philosophy of language and the mind. Attend one of their seminars and you’ll hear them go on about dualism, materialism, cosmology, ontology, truth, justice, and faith.

These are the people who are guiding the minds of boys and girls and young men and women in our school systems around the world. Western philosophers follow the general philosophical systems first established by ancient Greece and cities in Asia Minor, while Eastern philosophers follow the general philosophical systems first established by ancient Babylon, Persia, China and India. None of those systems are based on Christian beliefs, yet millions of children from Christian homes are being taught these philosophies – every day. Many philosophers are atheists and agnostics – others come from a variety of spiritual perspectives. The question for Christian parents is – which spiritual perspective? Do you know what your children’s teachers believe? Do you know what they teach and why?

God warns His people about the dangers of philosophy. The Apostle Paul was a missionary to the Gentile world, so he was constantly facing arguments from the philosophies of both East and West. Here's what Paul suggested we do about philosophy – “Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.” (Colossians 2:8)

Paul used the Greek word *blepo* (beware) as a warning to Christians to use great discernment in this matter. Why? Because philosophy can spoil people. The word “spoil” is *sulagogeo* and means “to carry off as spoil, lead captive.” That's what the philosophy of the world does to people – it takes them mentally, morally, emotionally, and spiritually captive. What happens when people are taken captive? They usually don't come back. That's what's happening in the Church. Here are some hard facts (from several recent research projects):

1. 70-75% of Christian young people leave the Church after high school
2. One of the major reasons is intellectual skepticism (philosophy and vain deceit)
3. Most Christian young people are not equipped to deal with the anti-Christian message from professors, fellow students and friends
4. College professors are five times more likely to identify themselves as atheists than other members of the general public
5. More than half of all college professors view students with Christian backgrounds unfavorably

Look closely at the children and teenagers in your church. If you don't equip them now to deal with these faith bullies, you won't see most of them after they graduate from high school. Statistically, about 30% of

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the ones who leave will return to church sometime after the age of 30, but that means they will lose ten or more years of productive Christian living – and 70% of those who leave will never return.

I don't like those statistics at all. Something must be done. Church leaders and parents need to realize the importance of equipping their young people to deal effectively with a world that hates Jesus Christ and those who follow Him. People who hate Christ will bully His followers until they are either taken captive, made to cower, forced to deny Christ, or are dead. Remember what Jesus said about the enemy of His people – “The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy.” (John 10:10)

Paul also warned about “vain deceit.” The Greek is *kenes apaites* and means “deceit that is void of anything profitable.” The word *apaites* means “to cheat, deceive, beguile.” The philosophies of the world cheat, deceive and beguile people of all ages – and are void of anything profitable. Paul warned the Colossians against following the traditions of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. The traditions of men are *paradosin ton anthropon* – those teachings and instructions handed down from generation to generation. The rudiments of the world are *stoicheia tou kosmon* – the first, elementary principles of the world's belief systems. The philosophies that our children are learning in schools and universities today are the same elementary principles first handed down by Satan thousands of years ago – handed down from generation to generation. Those philosophies are empty, vain, deluded, and dangerous – and they are not “after Christ.” They are not the Thoughts of God.

Parents – warn your children about philosophers. Philosophers want only one thing – to take the minds and hearts of our children captive to their

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foolishness. How do we stop it? By helping our children, teenagers and young adults learn how to think biblically and see everything in life from God's perspective. Take time with your children when they ask you philosophical questions. They are hearing it from friends, parents of friends, teachers or other adults. Make sure they know what you believe and why. Let them know you are interested in their thoughts and beliefs. Don't dismiss their questions as childish, foolish or immature. Treat their ideas as important and they will treat your answers in the same way.

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# Seekers, Skeptics and Scoffers – Knowing the Difference

People who ask Christians about God, the Bible, and Faith in Christ usually come in one of three basic categories: seekers, skeptics or scoffers. It's important for a Christian sharing the Gospel with people to know the difference.

## **Seekers**

A “seeker” is someone who is in search of truth. Seekers are often friendly and open about their search. Their journey for truth often takes them into and through a variety of faith systems. They may have had negative experiences in some of those systems, so they may display some defensiveness or tentativeness in their questions about and response to your sharing the Gospel Truths with them. It is helpful for Christians to have some historical background in the religions and philosophies of the world to better understand the quest for immortality. I wrote a book in 2007 called “A History of Man’s Quest for Immortality” to help seekers and Christians understand the world’s desire for the spiritual.

Seekers are interested in what the Bible says. They are sensitive to spiritual matters and will often compare what you read from the Bible with words they’ve learned from other religions or philosophies. In general, seekers are not faith bullies. However, many seekers tend to be “universalists” in the sense that they view most spiritual belief systems as different roads to the same end. They often believe that Jesus was a good man, good teacher, moral leader, etc., so I like to share with them that this Good Man, Jesus, said these words to His followers:

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“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him.” John 14:6-7

Jesus said no one can approach God the Father except through Him (Jesus). As you look at this verse and many others in the Gospel accounts of Christ’s Life, it is clear that Jesus claimed to be God and the only Path to God. Jesus ruled out every other religion and philosophy with His teachings. I get various reactions from seekers when I tell them that about Jesus. Some will listen, others will disagree, many will walk away. What you are doing with seekers is speaking the “Word” to them. Jesus already told us what happens when we speak the Word to unbelievers. Some believe – some don’t. Our job is to preach the Word to everyone.

“Therefore hear the parable of the sower: When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside. But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles. Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful. But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.” Matthew 13:18-23

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Another insight to the principle of “sowing the Word” is from the Apostle Paul: “I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase.” (1 Corinthians 3:6-7) When you talk with a seeker, you may be planting a new Word seed or you may be watering a Word seed someone else planted, but know that God is the One Who gives the increase. Pray for wisdom as you share the Word with seekers and be confident in God’s Power to save their soul.

## **Skeptics and Scoffers**

A “skeptic” is someone who questions the validity or authenticity of something presenting itself as fact. Many skeptics are quietly skeptical and don’t become confrontational about their disbelief. However, some skeptics become “scoffers” – verbally berating Christians. They are inclined to question or doubt all accepted opinions in religion and spiritual things. Skeptics doubt the Truths that Christians believe – e.g. the existence of God, the reliability of Scripture, the Life of Jesus Christ on Earth, etc. Many skeptics are atheists (i.e. anti-theists), while others would call themselves agnostics (i.e. no one can know). They usually stay out of the way of Christians, but will fight back if they feel threatened. However, atheist scoffers are faith bullies looking for a fight.

Sharing the Gospel with a skeptic is different than talking with a seeker. They are not interested in what you think. They don’t want to know what you know. They rarely ask questions of believers. Scoffers, on the other hand, will say things to bully you by bringing out your emotional side. They have some idea about what the Bible says Christians should be (e.g. loving, patient, kind, long suffering, etc.), so they say things specifically to evoke emotions from you that are contrary to what the Bible teaches. When you get angry or lose patience with a scoffer, they

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are quick to point out how far you are from the ideal of what you claim to believe. That was one of my favorite tactics when I talked with Christians on my talk show years ago. I found it easy to get Christians angry. I'm ashamed of the way I behaved before coming to Faith, but at least I can share with you now what atheists do to push your buttons. You can deal with these people – effectively.

Many atheists and some agnostics spend quite a bit of time reading atheist books and talking with other unbelievers about the Christian “delusion.” Reading atheist literature and talking with other unbelievers prepares scoffers for their “mission” to confront religious people and show them the “error” of their ways. Because I used to be an atheist (skeptic and scoffer), they love to tear into me when they find out I'm now a Christian. One scoffer told me I must have been a very bad atheist to go over to the “other side.” I told him that as a journalist and “free thinker” my primary goal was to discover truth. When I discovered that God was real and had sent His Son to die for my sins, I did what any truth-seeker should do – I believed. It's at that point when most atheists tell me to go away and leave them alone. That's a good thing in a way because it means the Word seed is planted and the Holy Spirit is doing what only He can do.

“And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in Me; of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.” John 16:8-11

You need to be prepared to deal with skeptics and scoffers. Their arguments appear to be logical and come from a root of reasoning. However, their logic and reason are rooted in foolishness (Psalm 14:1).

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That places Christians in a position of superiority. You have the True Wisdom of God dwelling in you. Here are some things you can do to be ready to defend the Gospel.

Know what the Bible teaches – in context. Atheists and agnostics don't have the guidance of the Holy Spirit when they quote Scripture, so they don't understand its true meaning. You do have the Spirit of God guiding you, so that puts you in a position of superiority as you talk with them about the Bible. Atheists will push back when you use the Bible to prove the Bible, but be sure they can't push you into a corner because they know more about the Bible than you do.

Know something about the sciences that support the Bible (e.g. archaeology, astronomy, physics, astrophysics, chemistry, biology, anthropology, hydrology, geology, meteorology, etc). Skeptics and scoffers love to use arguments from science because so many people are intimidated by the "high knowledge" of science. What Christians need to know is that true science is on the side of Faith. Science is the study of knowledge that can be tested, so why should that intimidate us? Who is the Source of knowledge? That's right! Your Heavenly Father. God Created all of the laws and principles of true science, so any real test of knowledge will support what He knows. In the coming weeks and months we will share more about how science supports what God knows and tells us in His Word.

Know enough about the philosophies and religions of the world so you can respond to the arguments of skeptics and scoffers. Atheists look for holes in a believer's armor. Do your homework. Read what Christian and non-Christian scientists are writing

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about science and the Bible. It's eye-opening and confidence-building to see how true science agrees with the Bible.

Pray with other Christians about facing skeptics and scoffers in your life. God made us a family of believers for many reasons – getting prayer support is one of them.

Trust God to help you as you talk with skeptics and scoffers. The Lord laughs at the wisdom of men – it is foolishness to Him.

“Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?” 1 Corinthians 1:20

“Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you seems to be wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, ‘He catches the wise in their own craftiness’; and again, ‘The LORD knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile.’ 1 Corinthians 3:18-20

“Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder), that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior, knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts.” 2 Peter 3:1-3

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## What Is This Faith We Defend?

First, let's look at the answer for the first part of the question – What Is This Faith?

We believe in God.

We believe in the God of the Bible.

We believe the Bible is God's Word.

We believe God Created the universe and everything in it.

We believe God is actively involved in the universe and everything in it.

We believe God is more powerful than anything He Created.

We believe God has spoken to the people of the world through prophets and His Son.

We believe that Jesus Christ is God's Son.

We believe that Jesus Christ is the Brightness of His Father's Glory and the Express Image of His Father's Person.

We believe that Jesus Christ was born miraculously to a virgin.

We believe that Jesus Christ is the Promised Messiah of Israel.

We believe that Jesus Christ purged our sins by dying for us on the Cross in Israel 20 centuries ago.

We believe that Jesus Christ rose from the grave and sat down at the Right Hand of the Majesty on High.

We believe that Jesus Christ is the King of kings and Lord of lords and Rules over His Body, the Church.

We believe that Jesus Christ will return for His Body, the Church, and they will be with Him forever wherever He goes.

We believe that Jesus Christ will destroy the armies of the world and rule on earth for a thousand years.

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We believe that the dead, small and great, will stand before God and that Jesus Christ will Judge them according to their works.

We believe that anyone not found written in the Book of Life will be cast into the lake of fire.

We believe that Jesus Christ will destroy heaven and earth and Create a new heaven, a new earth and a New Jerusalem.

We believe that God will wipe away every tear from the eyes of those who live with Him in eternity and that they will never again experience death, sorrow, crying, nor pain.

We believe that Heaven and Eternal Life will be the most amazing experience of our life – the best part being that we will be with God forever!

The next part of the question is the **defense** of this Faith. Jesus defended the Faith with His Life. The Apostles defended the Faith with their lives. Tens of thousands of Christians of the early Church defended the Faith with their lives. Millions of Christians around the world today are defending the Faith with their lives. It is God's Will that we defend the Faith with our lives. Why? Because the Christian Faith is worth defending!

People defend themselves – they defend their honor - they defend their families – they defend their possessions – they defend their property – they defend the innocent – they defend the weak – they defend their country. What is greater than any of these? The Faith Jesus Christ gave us through His Great Sacrifice. That is worth defending. That is why we prepare ourselves to give an answer (*apologia* – defense) for the hope that is in us (1 Peter 3:15). We prepare for so many other things in life – dinner, work, getting together with family and friends, vacations – shouldn't we prepare for something even greater than these things?

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That's the defense of the Christian Faith.

Does this stir something inside of you? Excellent! That means you're listening to God. He has made His Will clear to us. Everything God says to His children in His Word is that nothing is more important than defending the Faith. Listen to what He says about those who give their lives in defense of the Faith -

“And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented—of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.” Hebrews 11:32-40.

Do you want to live a life that pleases God? Do you want your life to count for something really special? Something eternal? Then prepare to defend the Faith!

*Dealing With Faith Bullies*

*Mark A McGee*

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