



INTRODUCTION: How do we respond to so much skepticism in this day and age? Let me start by saying that you must be two things:

- 1) **BE REAL** – You must have a full faith (I Peter 3:13-14) – The word “follower” (Robertson’s NT Word Pictures) is where we get the word “zealot” from and the phrase “followers of that which is good” has the meaning of “Zealots for the good.”

“Our world is not looking for a greater definition of faith, but a greater demonstration of our faith.” – Adrian Rogers

- 2) **BE READY (I Peter 3:15)**

I. FOREGO THE FOLLY OF FOOLS

When the Bible speaks of a fool, it doesn’t mean someone who is mentally deficient, but rather someone who is morally depraved.

Proverbs 26:4, “Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest thou also be like unto him.”

Matthew 7:6, “Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you.”

Matthew 10:14-15, “¹⁴ And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, when ye depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet. ¹⁵ Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrha in the day of judgment, than for that city.”

II. LEARN THE LIMITS OF LOGIC (I PETER 3:15)

The word “answer” in this verse is from the Greek word *apologia* (απολογία, ap-ol-og-ee'-ah). It is where we get the word “apologetics” from. It means to give a clear defense of the faith.

Isaiah 1:18, “Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.”

A. THE APOLOGETICS OF CREATION

Romans 1:19-20, “¹⁹ Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. ²⁰ For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:”

“A sound explanation may exist for the explosive birth of our Universe; but if it does, science cannot find out what the explanation is. The scientist’s pursuit of the past ends in the moment of creation. This is an exceedingly strange development, unexpected by all but the theologians. They have always accepted the Word of the Bible: In the beginning God created heaven and earth... At this moment it seems as though science will never be able to raise the curtain on the mystery of creation. For the scientist who has lived by his faith in the power of reason, the story ends like a bad dream. He has scaled the mountains of ignorance; he is about to conquer the highest peak; as he pulls himself over the final rock, he is greeted by a band of theologians who have been sitting there for centuries.” – Professor Robert Jastrow

“Astronomers now find they have painted themselves into a corner because they have proven, by their own methods, that the world began abruptly in an act of creation to which you can trace the seeds of every star, every planet, every living thing in this cosmos and on the earth. And they have found that all this happened as a product of forces they cannot hope to discover. That there are what I or anyone would call supernatural forces at work is now, I think, a scientifically proven fact.” – Professor Robert Jastrow

B. THE APOLOGETICS OF DESIGN

When you have a purposeful design, where all the elements work together in perfect harmony, there must be a Designer.

C. THE APOLOGETICS OF MORAL LAW

Romans 2:14-15, “¹⁴ For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: ¹⁵ Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;”

III. REMEMBER THE RESOURCE OF REVELATION (II PETER 1:19-21)

A. THE INSPIRATION OF GOD’S WORD (II PETER 1:20-21)

B. THE ILLUMINATION OF GOD’S WORD (II PETER 1:19)

C. THE CONFIRMATION OF GOD’S WORD (II PETER 1:19)

Jeremiah 23:29, “Is not my word like as a fire? saith the LORD; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?”

IV. FORTIFY THE FORCE OF FAITH (I PETER 3:15)

“A Christian with a glowing testimony is worth a library full of arguments.” – Vance Havner

Psalms 34:8, “O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.”