

SW018 - ZACH MABRY

**GIVING AN ANSWER FOR YOUR
HOPE**

1 PETER 3:13-16

- ▶ Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, **always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you;** yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.

WHAT IS THIS TEXT ASSUMING?

- ▶ That Christians are suffering for doing good
- ▶ That we would be living distinct from the world, specifically living with hope
- ▶ That people are asking
- ▶ That we have an answer

WHAT MAKES UP HOPE?

- ▶ Eternity
- ▶ Justice
- ▶ Morality
- ▶ So then what worldview has the best foundation for hope?

COMMON GROUND

- ▶ Everyone is pretty much playing from the same rule book
 - ▶ We all live as if there are objective moral standards that we should all follow.
 - ▶ We all live as if there is something to live for
 - ▶ We all live as if there is something to avoid
- ▶ But where does this come from?

BUT WHERE IS OUR FOUNDATION?

- ▶ For the non-believer there is no foundation for objective morality.
- ▶ According to naturalistic thinking we are all just byproducts of evolution and the only value is survival
- ▶ But why do we all live like there is a standard of morality in practice?

EXAMPLES OF MORAL OUTRAGE

- ▶ Implicit Racial Bias
 - ▶ Roseanne Barr fired for racist tweet
 - ▶ Starbucks 4 hour racial sensitivity training (May 29)
- ▶ #metoo - the fight against sexual misconduct
- ▶ LGBTQ movement
- ▶ How can you say that morality is relative and if you don't believe it, you're wrong?

JUSTICE

- ▶ Really an extension of morality
- ▶ Everyone longs for justice to take place, why?
- ▶ For the Christian it is wrapped up in our understanding of how God has created us as His image bearers for a relationship with Himself. Yet this has been broken in the Fall and we are now called back into obedience through faith.

ETERNITY

- ▶ We are eternal creatures and we long for eternal justice
- ▶ Everyone thinks that the outcome for Hitler and Mother Theresa should be different, but why?

THE REASON FOR OUR HOPE

- ▶ Hinges on Morality, Justice, and Eternity
- ▶ No other belief system offers this hope
- ▶ Atheistic: at the end of your life there is nothing, life is meaningless, no purpose, no morality, no justice.
- ▶ Islam: the only way to secure your eternity is Jihad... who wants to live that way?

THE ULTIMATE REASON FOR OUR HOPE

- ▶ The Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead
- ▶ 1 Cor 15:17-19 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.
- ▶ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead!

HOW CAN WE BE CONFIDENT IN THIS?

- ▶ Because it is true.
- ▶ Critics have been trying to disprove Christianity for 2,000 and it's only continuing to grow.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE

- ▶ Live as people with hope - **Live it out**
- ▶ Pursue the Lord and grow in Christlikeness
- ▶ 1 Tim 4:7-8 Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness; for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.

STUDY

- ▶ Read, Study, Learn so that you can better explain why Christianity is the only worldview that provides a ground for our Hope in Christ.
- ▶ Resources:
 - ▶ The Case for Christ: Lee Strobel (anything by Lee Strobel)
 - ▶ The God Who is There - Francis Schaeffer
 - ▶ Life's Ultimate Questions: Ron Nash
 - ▶ Total Truth: Nancy Pearcey
 - ▶ The Universe Next Door - James Sire
 - ▶ Reasonable Faith - William Lane Craig
 - ▶ The Reason for God - Tim Keller

