

Sermon Study Guide



#2: A Ready Defense

Law & Liberty: Experiencing Freedom in Christ

September 6, 2020 | Dr. Stephen G. Tan

In this series we will study the book of Galatians to see that the one true Gospel--the Gospel of Jesus Christ--provides a balance between rules and law and freedom and grace.

Reflect

Have you ever had to “debate” your faith? What do you think would be the best way to defend what you believe if someone starts questioning it?

Read and Discuss

Scripture

Galatians 1:11-2:10

Discussion Questions

1. Why did the apostle Paul had to defend the truth of the Gospel? How did the Judaizers propagate a false gospel message? Since the Gospel message is the absolute truth, not based on anyone’s opinion or idea, what would be your ready defense for the Gospel of Jesus Christ if someone presented to you a false gospel?
2. **Defense #1: The Declarations from the Ultimate Authority on Truth (v. 1:11-12).** Why was Paul so definite of the basis of truth that he taught? What did Jesus Christ claim in the following verses: John 3:16, John 11:25, and John 14:6? How would you develop your defense of the Gospel based on these Scripture verses?
3. **Defense #2: A Changed and Transformed Life (v.1:13-24).** What kind of person was Paul before he became a believer of Jesus Christ? What personal experience turned him around? How did his radical life transformation affect others--the people who knew him and those who have never heard of the Gospel before but heard it through him? How would the true Gospel message you share with others be defended if
 - they knew you had changed and had a transformed life?
4. **Defense #3: An Authentic, Consistent, and Purposed Mission (v. 2:1-10).** What God-ordained ministry or mission was Paul called to do? What did he do so that the church leaders in Jerusalem would know that he was proclaiming the same message and truth as they do to the Jewish? What traditions and customs could be a source of bondage and rob you of your liberties as Christians? In what way can you live a credible, consistent, and purposed Christian life to serve as a defense for Christ and your faith in Him?

Respond

In Walk: Paul’s life was radically transformed by God for a purpose. He didn’t want anything to do with the Gentiles (non-Jews), but he submitted to God’s will when he was called to witness and minister to them. He was consistent and purposed in how he lived for Christ. His life served as a great defense for the Gospel! As a follower of Jesus Christ, how does your life serve as a defense for the Gospel truth? What do you think should you do if your life is not consistent with how you should live for Christ?

In Prayer: Heavenly Father, Your Word is the truth. Others may not believe it, or they may add something else to it, but please give me the discernment to be able to tell the truth from lies and right from wrong. As I get rooted in Your Word deeper, may I learn how to defend my faith and how I should live it out so that others may be led to know You. In Jesus' name. Amen.