

## Always Be Ready to Give a Defence (2)

### Background

Last time, we began to look at the subject of apologetics by saying that, if someone asks us about our faith, we can give three kinds of answers: descriptive, defensive and offensive. We also looked at a framework for defending the faith. This week, we are going to consider how we *know* that Christianity is true.

### Questions

Throughout the New Testament, we read of people coming to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

- How did they come to *know* the truth? Think particularly about the conversion of Paul (Acts 9), Cornelius (Acts 10), Sergius Paulus (Acts 13) and Lydia (Acts 16).
- What is common to every example of coming to *know* the truth (Romans 10v13-17, 2 Corinthians 4v6)?

Every conversion experience is different but it has the same essential ingredients. If you are a Christian, you came to *know* the truth through the proclamation of the gospel and the working of the Holy Spirit.

The experience of New Testament believers fulfils the promise that Jesus gave to his disciples.

- How did Jesus say that his disciples would *know* the truth (John 14v15-21)? How does every believer continue to *know* the truth (Romans 8v15-16; Gal 4v4-7)?

We may not be able to convince others about the truth of Christianity. We may not be able to answer all their objections. But, if we are Christians, we have received the Holy Spirit. Through his divine testimony, we *know* the truth.

## John 14v15-21

<sup>15</sup>“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup>And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, <sup>17</sup>even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

<sup>18</sup>“I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. <sup>19</sup>Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup>In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.

<sup>21</sup>Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.”

## Galatians 4v4-7

<sup>4</sup>But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. <sup>6</sup>And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” <sup>7</sup>So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

## Romans 8v15-16

<sup>15</sup>For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” <sup>16</sup>The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup>and if children, then heirs--heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.