

Know the God of Scripture

Volume 1

(revised 10/11/2024)

Week 51: Defend Your Faith - Answer Guide

Below is the answer guide for this week's lesson. By no means are the answers complete or the only possible responses to each question. They are a guide to fully understanding the intent of the questions posed.

1. Peter was the first disciple called into service with Jesus (Mark 1:16-18). He was a fisherman from Bethsaida (John 1:44) whose home was in Capernaum (Mark 1:21). He was married (Matthew 8:14) and his wife accompanied him in ministry (1 Corinthians 9:5). His brother, Andrew, introduced him to Jesus (John 1:42). He was part of Jesus' inner circle (along with James and John, Mark 5:37). He denied Jesus three times but was restored after Jesus' resurrection. He boldly delivered the speech at Pentecost (Acts 2) and was a leader of disciples.

2. Besides his sermon at Pentecost where he proclaimed Jesus as Lord, Peter mentions Him here also (1 Peter 1:3, 2:13; 3:15). He implies the deity of Jesus by applying Psalm 34:8 to Him (YHWH). Peter refers to Him as a lamb (1 Peter 1:19), a living stone (1 Peter 2:4), a shepherd and overseer (1 Peter 2:25) and chief shepherd (1 Peter 5:4). According to Peter, there was no doubt in his mind who Jesus was, the Lord of salvation to all mankind!

3. "Prepare your minds (1 Peter 1:13)" is an imperative and implies that we cognitively and aggressively take action. "Be self-controlled" is a picture of staying sober. Set your eyes on the future return of Christ, living as if He'll return today! Resist the evil you're surrounded by (and now are aware of). Imitate the pure life of Christ in all aspects of life. Let God, not the world, shape who you are by constantly reading His Word and praying fervently.

4. Isaiah is writing to an exiled nation (Israel in Babylon) whereas Peter is writing to pilgrim, or dispersed, Christians who are being oppressed by a pagan nation. Similar circumstances in both situations can draw from strength of God's *rhema* (utterances), not *logos* (word). We are all on our own Christian pilgrimage in a pagan world and can heed these encouraging words from Peter.

5. Answers will vary depending on individual circumstances and points of view.

- When we become a Christian it is a 'new' life transformed that requires nurturing, feeding (milk to meat) and cleaning up (forgiveness of sin).
- All stones in a building are valued and needed, they depend on each other. If left alone there is no purpose. The stones are used to build with purpose, analogous to building the church.
- As a chosen priesthood, we are set apart from the world for God's glory, holy amongst the unholy.

6. In the Old Testament, the nation of Israel was chosen by God to display His glory to surrounding nations with the hope of bringing them into covenant relationship with Him. Likewise, the chosen elect, the church of Jesus Christ, are encouraged by Peter to live a different life than the world by exercising holiness so that outsiders will see God's glory and come to know and proclaim Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

7. Christians are free from the punishment of sin in their service to God (John 8:32; Romans 6:15; Galatians 5:13). They are free from the bondage sin imposes on an individual. But, this newfound freedom of living does not give believers a license to continue in sin, but to abhor it and to turn from their selfish desires and institute a life of service and giving of oneself to others. In other words, they are not held captive by sin in their daily lives.

8. Christ set the example of pure and holy submission when He submitted to the authority of His Father by going to the cross. In His journey He submitted to the governing authority's verdicts (whose example we must imitate) even though it was unjust. Likewise, slaves and women were to exercise the same submission to authority whereby they would edify and glorify God in their actions (which is what Jesus did, too!). The life of holiness brings glory to the Father in all aspects of humility.

9. Like Christ demonstrated, love your enemies, do good to those who persecute you, love the unlovable, don't return insult when insulted, do not repay evil with evil, but with good. Christ gave us the example which Peter witnessed firsthand and is now sharing with his readers. God's love is best displayed in the sea of evil. Christ is most edified through our humble, submissive gestures that are contrary to the world's humanistic reactions. It helps to view ourselves as aliens, foreigners and/or sojourners.

10. It is comforting to know that Christ is our example, that He suffered the ultimate by bearing our sins on the cross. Because of His suffering we can summon the strength to do likewise in our earthly sufferings. Peter contrasts the world which believers came from to the world in which they now partake of and reveals the consequences to which they were tied and the bounty to which they are now entitled as believers. HOPE is the key to a continuing life of humility, suffering and service to Jesus.

Additional Questions:

1. Answers will vary depending on personal experience.

2. Answers will vary depending on personal experience.

3. Like Paul describes in his letter to Timothy (2 Timothy 3:16), every word of our Bible was placed there by men who were filled with the Holy Spirit. The author of the Bible is God, the Holy Spirit, placed there by men who were moved by Him. This fact alone points to an inerrant, infallible and inspired Bible that we have today.

4. Answers will vary depending on personal experience.

