



WORKSHOP SERIES

HOW DO WE GIVE AN ANSWER?

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WHAT IS APOLOGETICS?

The term apologetics means
a reasoned defence.

1 PETER 3:15

**“but in your hearts honour Christ the Lord
as holy, always being prepared to make a
defence to anyone who asks you for a reason
for the hope that is in you;
yet do it with gentleness and respect”**

A SIMPLE DEFINITION

“In its simplest form, apologetics is knowing what we believe and why we believe it, and being able to communicate that to others effectively.”

(Dr. Voddie Baucham Jr)

In other words...

Apologetics is about being:

1. **BIBLICAL** - we answer objections with the power of the Word.
2. **SIMPLE** - if we can't remember it, we won't use it.
3. **CONVERSATIONAL** - we must be able to share truth in a winsome manner.



TAKE AWAY: Apologetics must be biblical, simple, and conversational. It is knowing what you believe, why you believe it, and being able to communicate it effectively.



1. THE *FOUNDATION* OF APOLOGETICS *HONOURING CHRIST*

“...but in your hearts honour Christ the Lord as holy...” (1 Peter 3:15a)

An aerial photograph of a dense city skyline, likely New York City, with numerous skyscrapers. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. The text is positioned in the upper left quadrant.

3 marks of honouring Christ:

A. A HOLY LIFE: Living as a Christian

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A. A HOLY LIFE: Living as a Christian

Peter is saying this: the *starting point* of apologetics is to **set Christ as Lord** over the way we think, feel and act - over all of our lives and resources.



HEART CHECK:

How does my lifestyle, generosity, finances, purity, relationships, affections, passions, hobbies, interests, integrity in business, truthfulness of speech, what I watch and listen to, where I go, how I spend my time reflect the fact that I honour Christ in all of my life?



TAKE AWAY: You cannot give a reason for the hope in you if that hope is not working its way out of you!

3 marks of honouring Christ:

B. FEARLESSNESS: Suffering as a Christian

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B. FEARLESSNESS: Suffering as a Christian

Look at the context:

“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...”

(1 Peter 3:13-14)

3 marks of honouring Christ:

B. FEARLESSNESS: Suffering as a Christian

Apologetics, instead of being a tool that alleviates the tension between us and the world, often times it **intensifies** that tension.

A life lived fully sold out to Christ is the **basis** for our fearless witness.



TAKE AWAY: When we fear men, we are looking for our approval from others rather than God. His is the only “Well done, good and faithful servant” we should desire to hear.

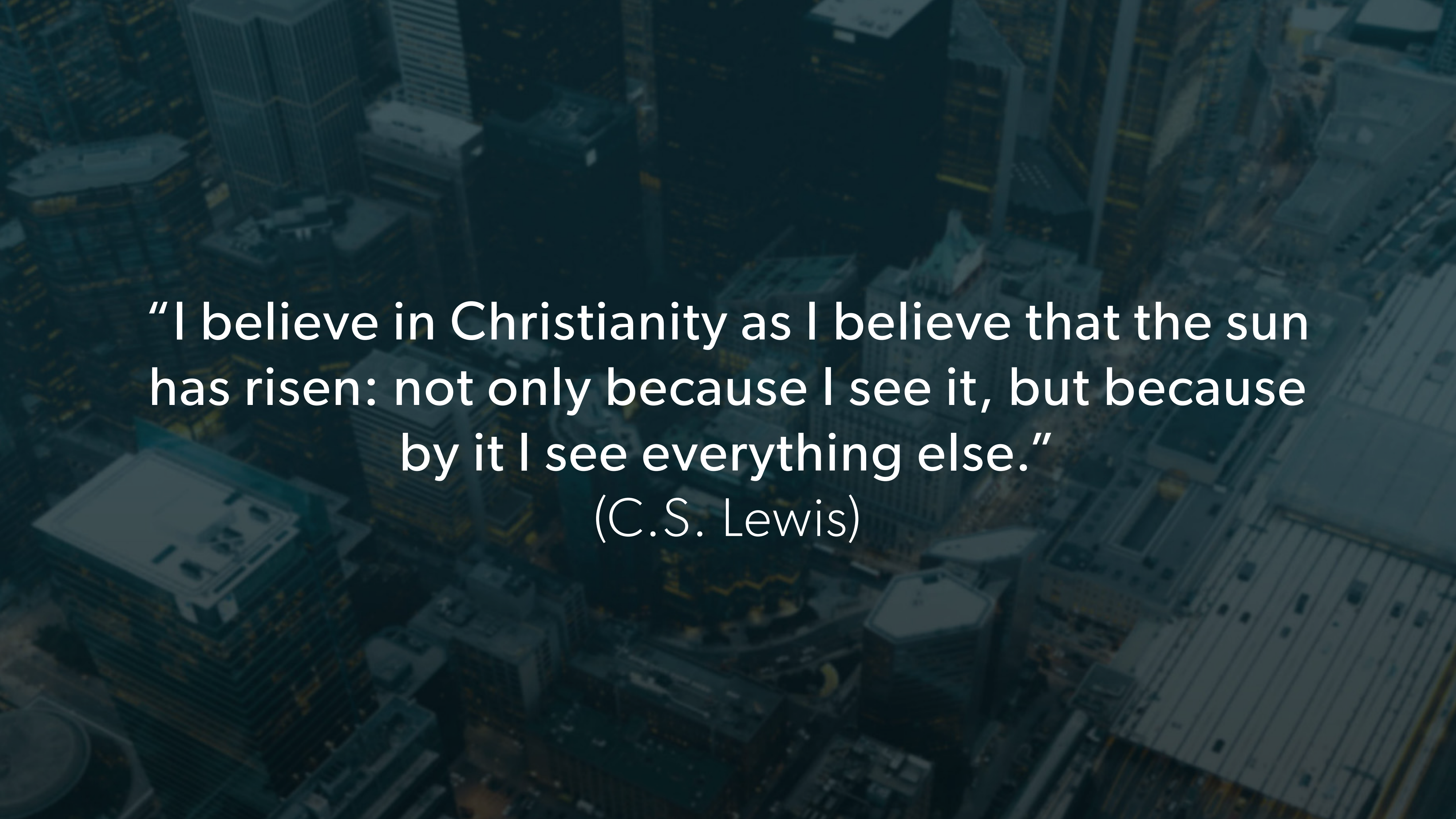
3 marks of honouring Christ:

C. A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW: Thinking as a Christian

We cannot honour Christ without conforming
our beliefs to His Word.

WHAT IS A WORLDVIEW?

A worldview is like **glasses** that we see through, like the big **story** we find ourselves in, or like the **light** by which we see things.

An aerial photograph of a dense urban skyline, likely New York City, viewed from a high angle. The image is heavily filtered with a dark blue color and a semi-transparent overlay, making the buildings appear in shades of blue and grey. The text is centered over the image.

“I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun
has risen: not only because I see it, but because
by it I see everything else.”
(C.S. Lewis)

WHAT IS A WORLDVIEW?

All worldviews are made up of **presuppositions**.

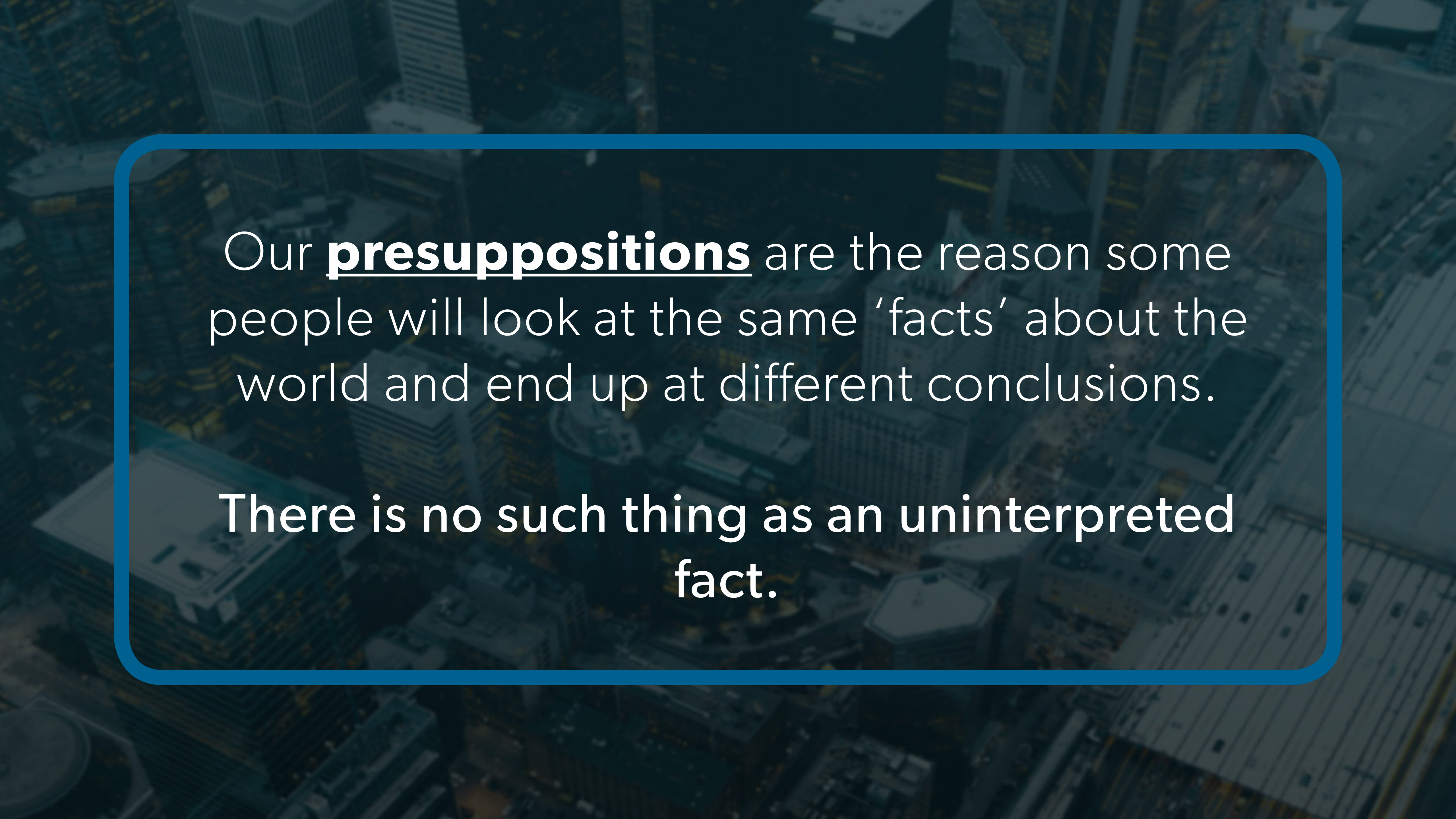
PRESUPPOSITIONS

“Every system must have some unproven assumptions, a starting point not antecedently [previously] established, with which reasoning begins and according to which it proceeds to conclusion.”

(Dr. Greg Bahnsen)

EXAMPLES OF PRESUPPOSITIONS

- Laws of Logic
- Reason
- Existence
- Morality
- Meaning

An aerial photograph of a dense city skyline, featuring numerous skyscrapers and buildings. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. A white rectangular text box with rounded corners and a blue border is positioned in the center of the image.

Our **presuppositions** are the reason some people will look at the same 'facts' about the world and end up at different conclusions.

There is no such thing as an uninterpreted fact.

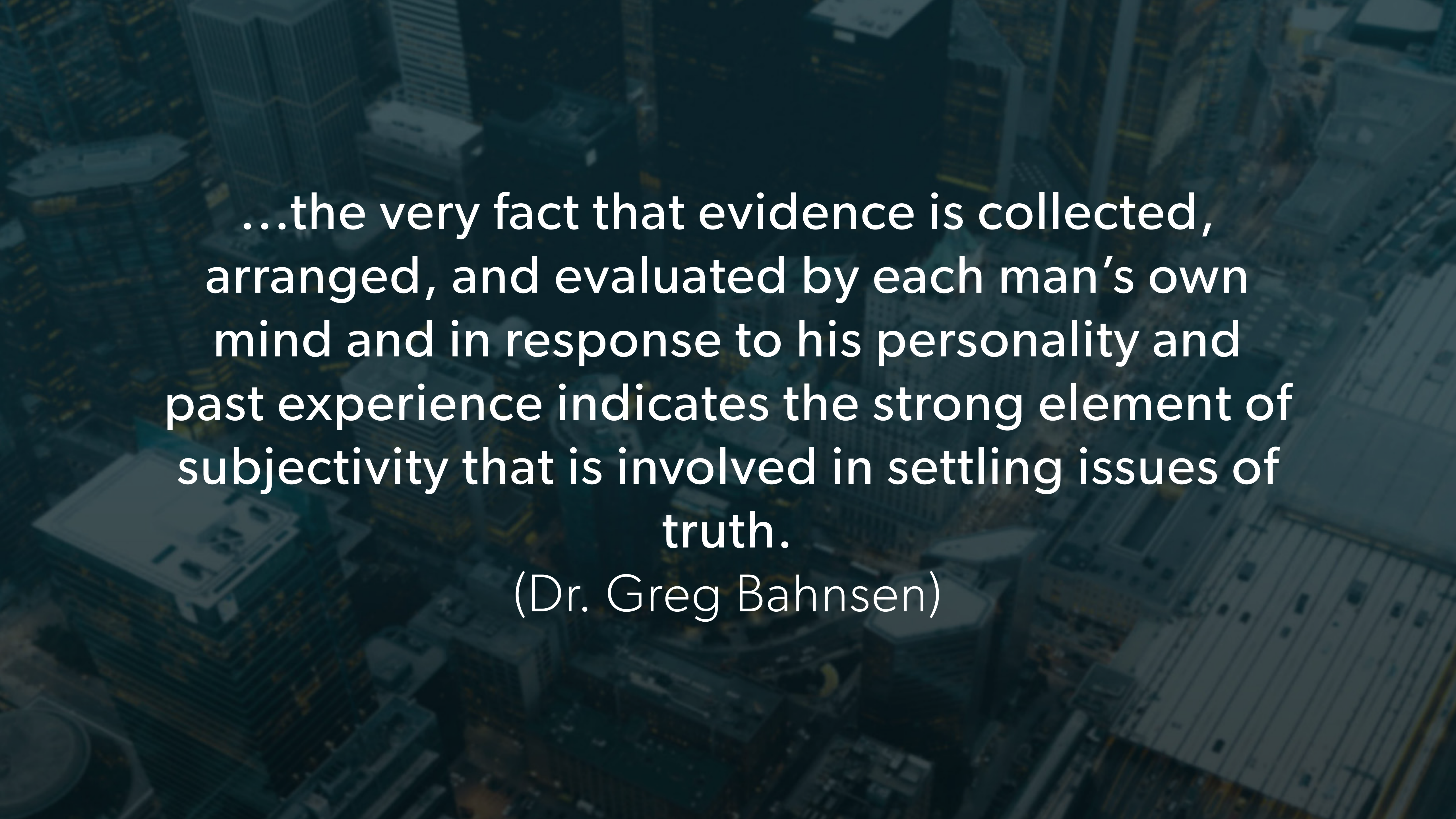


TAKE AWAY: Until we challenge an unbeliever's worldview (their presuppositions) they will keep looking at 'facts' and coming to wrong conclusions.



MYTH #1:

There's no such thing as a neutral person

An aerial photograph of a dense urban landscape, featuring numerous skyscrapers and buildings. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter, which serves as a background for the text.

...the very fact that evidence is collected,
arranged, and evaluated by each man's own
mind and in response to his personality and
past experience indicates the strong element of
subjectivity that is involved in settling issues of
truth.

(Dr. Greg Bahnsen)



MYTH #1:

There's no such thing as a neutral person

The Bible's descriptions of unbelievers are not
'neutral' descriptions.

**Everyone has an ultimate allegiance:
either to God or self.**



MYTH #2:

Everyone is without excuse (Romans 1:18-32)

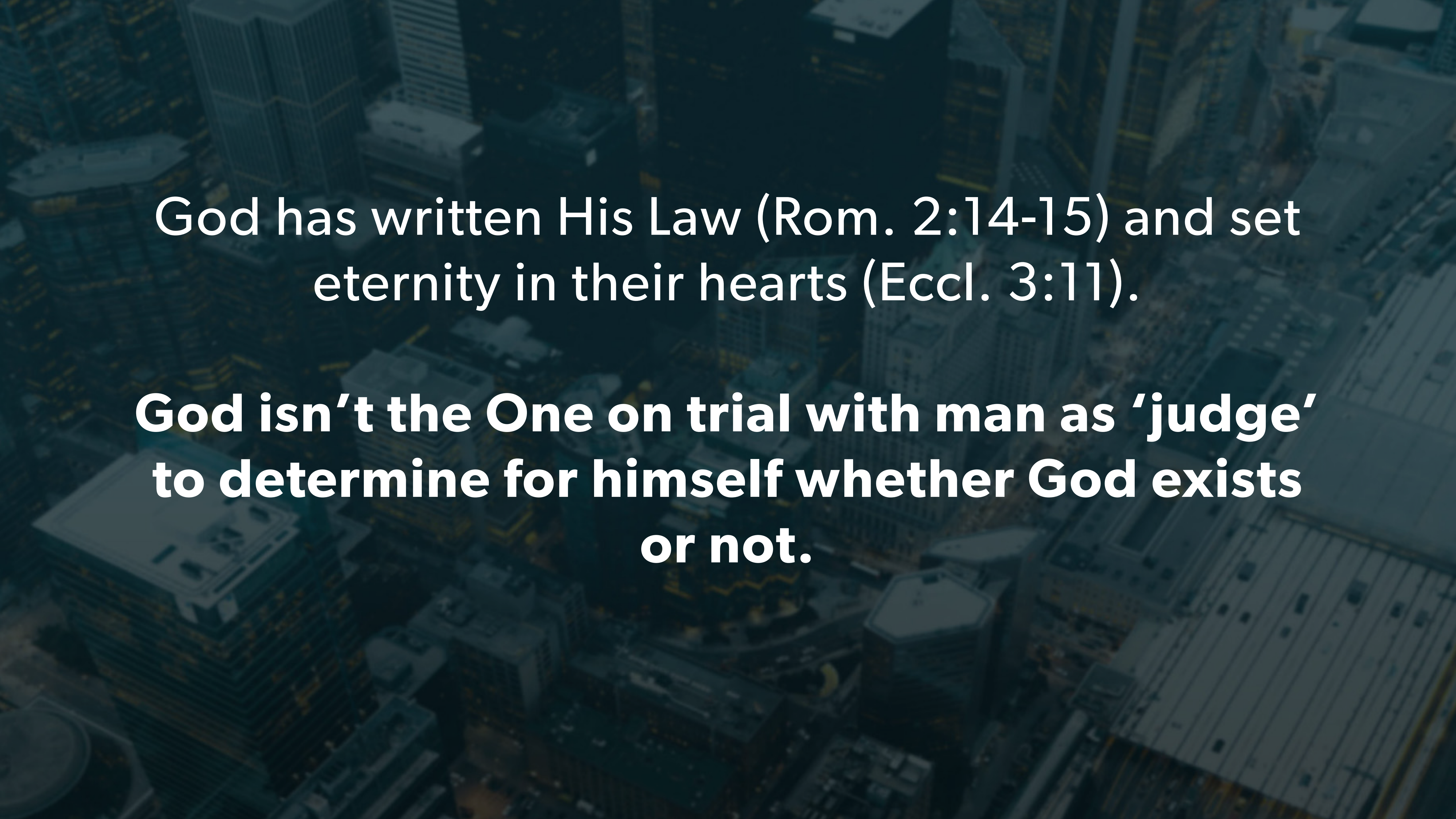


MYTH #2:

Everyone is without excuse (Romans 1:18-32)

The unbeliever suppresses the truth in unrighteousness (v.18).

God himself has made it plain to everyone (v.19)
so that they are without an excuse (v.20).



God has written His Law (Rom. 2:14-15) and set
eternity in their hearts (Eccl. 3:11).

**God isn't the One on trial with man as 'judge'
to determine for himself whether God exists
or not.**



TAKE AWAY: Apologetics seeks to expose the unbeliever's suppression of the truth in unrighteousness in order to give them the solution for their unrighteousness - the Gospel.

An aerial photograph of a dense urban landscape, likely New York City, showing numerous skyscrapers and buildings. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. Centered on the image is white text.

**So, do we just argue:
“YES YOU BELIEVE IN GOD!”?**

(NO)

An aerial photograph of a dense city skyline, likely New York City, viewed from a high angle. The image is heavily filtered with a dark blue color and a semi-transparent overlay, making the buildings appear in shades of blue and grey. The text is centered over this background.

WE NEED NEW AFFECTIONS

“What the heart loves, the will chooses, and the
mind justifies.”

(Thomas Cranmer)

A person wearing a blue and white plaid shirt is shown from the chest down, with their hands clasped in front of them. They are wearing a black watch on their left wrist. The background is a soft-focus outdoor setting with greenery. The entire image has a semi-transparent blue overlay.

2. THE CONTENT OF APOLOGETICS *PREPARED TO GIVE THE REASON FOR HOPE*

“...always being prepared to make a defence to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you...” (1 Peter 3:15b)

The content of our apologetic consists of these 3 things:


A. BEING PREPARED: Bible Study & Prayer

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I. BIBLE STUDY

God has granted us all things that pertain to life and godliness through knowledge of Christ (2 Peter 1:3), in whom all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden (Col. 2:3).

An aerial photograph of a dense city skyline, featuring numerous skyscrapers and buildings. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. A white text box with a blue border is positioned in the center, containing the following text:

All of our **growth** in knowing Christ actually serves as 'being prepared to give an answer for the hope in us' because it is learning how to apply God's word to our own hearts first, to answer our own areas of unbelief and doubt.

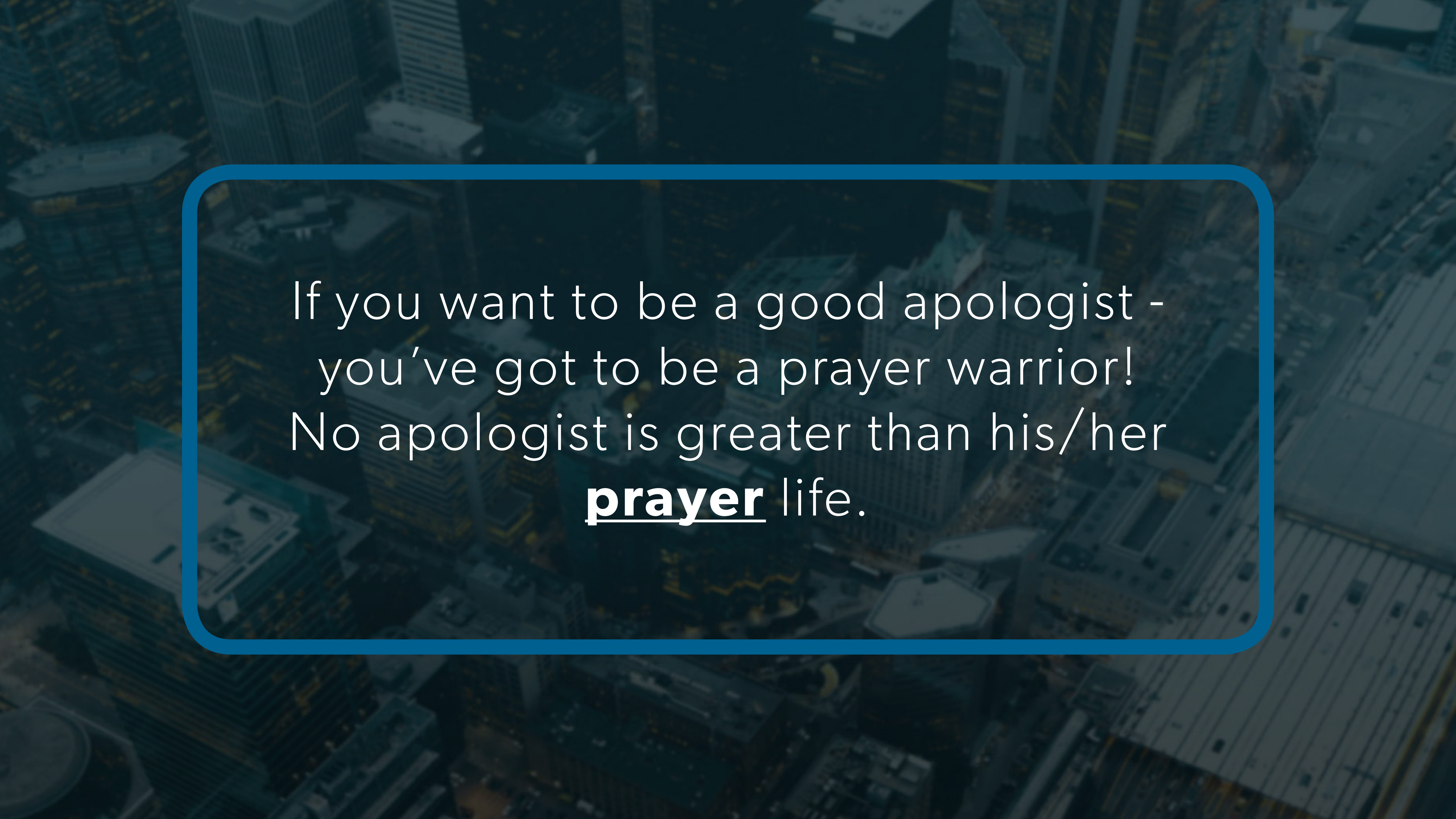
An aerial photograph of a dense urban landscape, likely New York City, featuring numerous skyscrapers and buildings. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. Centered on the image is the text "Don't be schizophrenic with God's Word." in a white, bold, sans-serif font.

Don't be schizophrenic with God's Word.

A. BEING PREPARED: Bible Study & Prayer

II. PRAYER

We are not sufficient for the task (2 Cor. 2:16b). Our sufficiency comes from God (2 Cor. 3:4-6) because is the Spirit that makes us sufficient for the task.

An aerial photograph of a dense city skyline, featuring numerous skyscrapers and buildings. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. A white text box with a blue border is centered on the image, containing the following text:

If you want to be a good apologist -
you've got to be a prayer warrior!
No apologist is greater than his/her
prayer life.



HEART CHECK:

The way to prepare yourself for apologetics
- the task of defending the faith - is to study
your Bible and pray.

Yep. That's it. Basic Christianity.
But are we doing it?

An aerial photograph of a dense urban skyline, featuring numerous skyscrapers and buildings. The image is overlaid with a dark blue, semi-transparent filter. Centered on the image is white text.

**Apologetics is essentially about doing
the basics and doing them well.**

Often we want the 'new & novel' when we
haven't even been doing the 'tried & true.'



TAKE AWAY: The way you prepare for being a good apologist is to be a good Christian who is intentional about their spiritual growth and is desperate in prayer.

B. PEOPLE ASKING YOU: Your Life's Witness

1 Peter 3:15 assumes that people are asking you for reasons for your hope.

This implies that you are living your Christian faith out in such a way that it stands out and people are compelled to ask, "why are you different?"



HEART CHECK:

When was the last time that someone observed my walk with Christ and it so baffled them that they just had to ask me about the hope in me?

4 TYPES OF QUESTIONS TO THE FAITH

1. **WEIRD** - What you believe is strange or odd
2. **UNTRUE** - What you believe is false
3. **IRRELEVANT** - What you believe is not important or applicable to my life
4. **HARMFUL** - What you believe is evil or hurtful



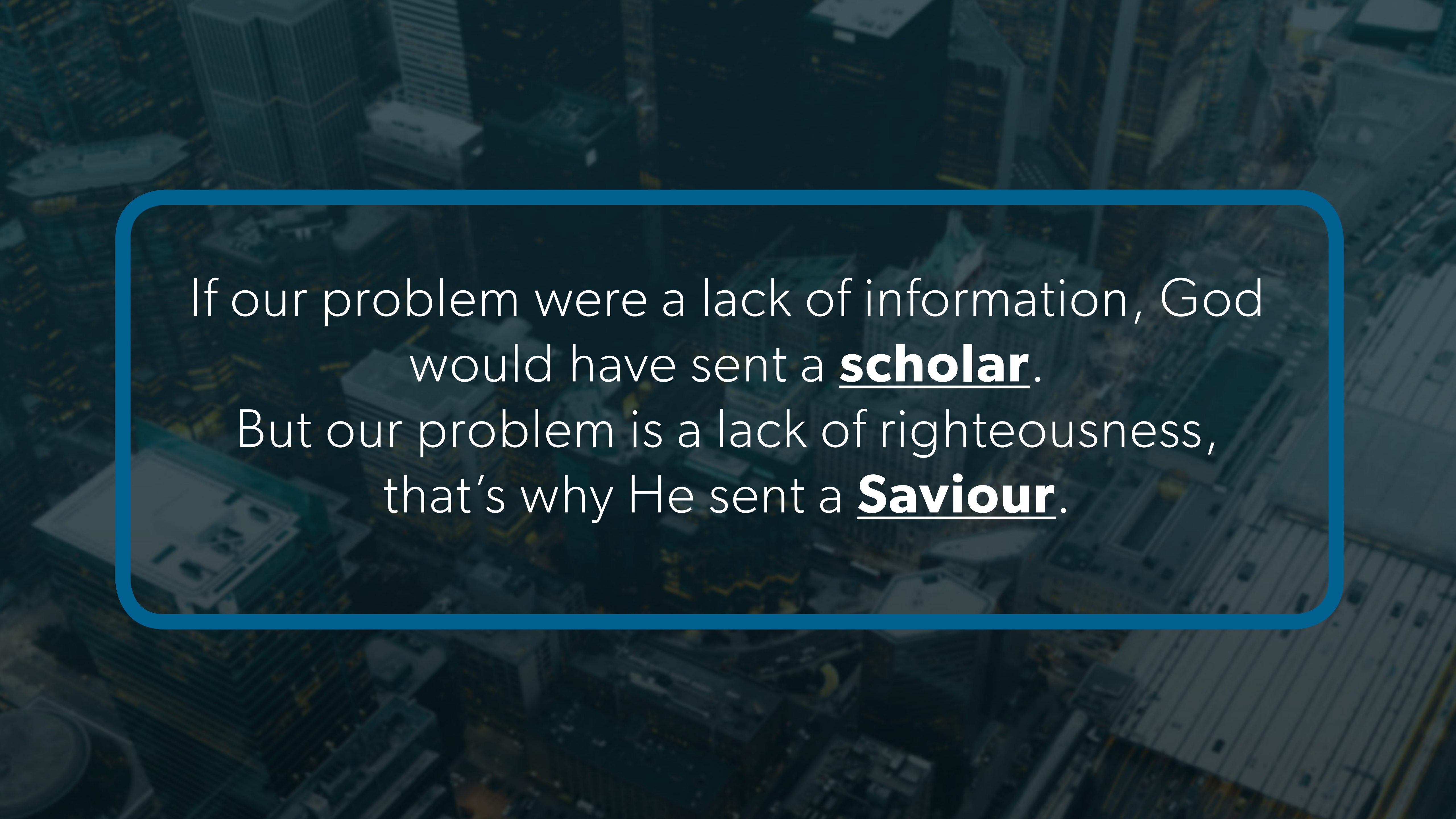
TAKE AWAY: Ask yourself: *WHO* is asking me (is my life bearing witness?) and *WHAT* are they asking me (weird, untrue, irrelevant, harmful)?

C. THE HOPE IN YOU: The Gospel

We are called to give a defence for is “the hope that is in you.”

What is that hope?

It is Christ in you, the hope of glory (Col. 1:27) - the hope is the Gospel!

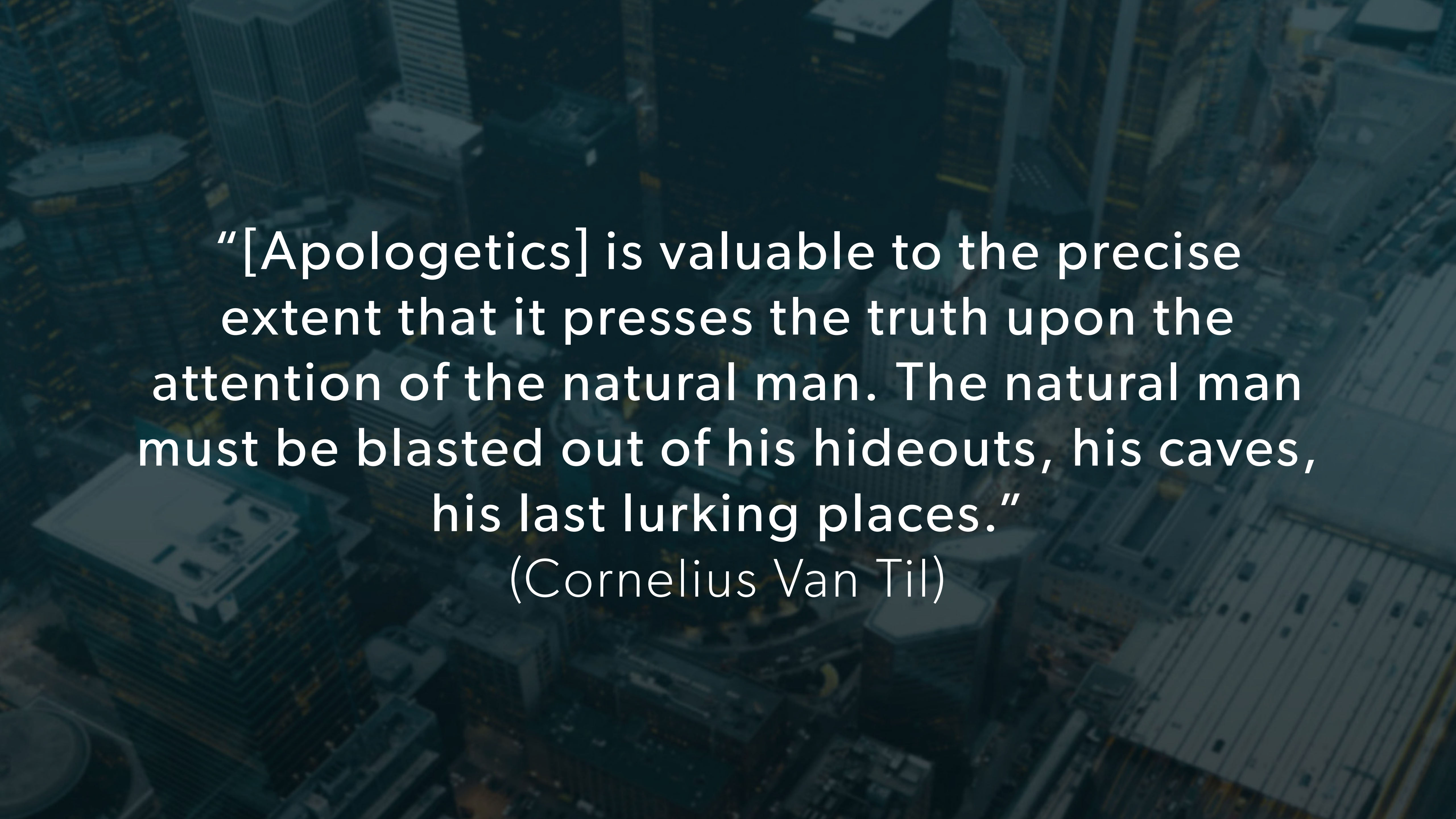


If our problem were a lack of information, God
would have sent a **scholar**.

But our problem is a lack of righteousness,
that's why He sent a **Saviour**.

DIAGNOSIS & CURE

We use evidences, arguments and scripture to diagnose the sinner and call them to account for the truth they suppress in unrighteousness (their fatal illness) so that they see their need for Christ (the only cure) and embrace Him.

An aerial photograph of a dense urban landscape, featuring numerous skyscrapers and buildings. The image is heavily filtered with a dark blue, semi-transparent overlay, which serves as a background for the text. The perspective is from a high angle, looking down on the city.

“[Apologetics] is valuable to the precise extent that it presses the truth upon the attention of the natural man. The natural man must be blasted out of his hideouts, his caves, his last lurking places.”

(Cornelius Van Til)



TAKE AWAY: Apologetics is essentially exposing their suppression so that they are put face to face with the core of their problem - unrighteousness - and the only solution - Christ.

An aerial photograph of a dense city skyline, likely New York City, viewed from a high angle. The image is heavily stylized with a dark blue overlay and a grid-like pattern of light blue lines, giving it a digital or architectural feel. The text is centered over the image.

COMMON OBJECTION

You cannot use the Bible to prove the Bible!



WARNING

DON'T PUT DOWN YOUR SWORD!

The Enemy knows that it is the weapon given to us and he does all that he can to get us to lay it down and not know how to use it.

Take up the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God (Eph. 6:17) when you go to battle!



3. THE CONDUCT OF APOLOGETICS

GENTLENESS, RESPECT, & GOOD CONDUCT

“...yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behaviour in Christ may be put to shame.” (1 Peter 3:15c-16)

GENTLY DEMOLISHING FOUNDATIONS

“We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ.”
(2 Corinthians 10:5)

An aerial photograph of a dense urban landscape, likely New York City, showing numerous skyscrapers and buildings. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. Centered on the image is a white text overlay.

We must give an answer with **gentleness** and
respect.

This is why it is essential that our apologetic aim is the **Gospel**.

Yes, we are destroying foundations, but only so that they would replace their faulty foundation with the only true, strong foundation - Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 3:11).

An aerial photograph of a dense city skyline, likely New York City, viewed from a high angle. The image is heavily filtered with a dark blue color and a semi-transparent overlay, making the buildings appear in shades of blue and grey. The perspective is looking down on the city, showing the intricate patterns of skyscrapers and streets.

WAIT ON GOD'S VINDICATION

He alone is the final **Judge** of all.



TAKE AWAY: In apologetics, we honour Christ in our words, thinking and behaviour by showing gentleness and respect for people - entrusting God with ultimate judgement.

RECAP

Apologetics is **knowing what we believe** and **why we believe it**, and being able to **communicate that to others effectively**.

It's about being:

BIBLICAL, **SIMPLE** and **CONVERSATIONAL**

RECAP

1 Peter 3:15 shows us apologetics':

- 1. FOUNDATION** - honouring Christ in everything
- 2. CONTENT** - the reason for the hope in us
- 3. CONDUCT** - gentleness, respect & good conduct

PRACTICAL TIPS & FREE RESOURCES



PRACTICAL TIPS & FREE RESOURCES

CATECHISMS

NO - it's not just a 'Catholic thing'

PRACTICAL TIPS & FREE RESOURCES

CATECHISMS (Questions & Answers)

The New City Catechism
The Westminster Catechism

PRACTICAL TIPS & FREE RESOURCES

CREEDS

(That's wrong, this is right)

The Apostles' Creed (c. 120-250AD)

The Nicene Creed (325-381AD)

Chalcedonian Creed (451AD)

PRACTICAL TIPS & FREE RESOURCES

CONFESSIONS (This we believe...)

Hope Church Doctrinal Statement
Second London Baptist Confession of Faith

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

See handout...



Q&A



YOU ARE LOVED

HOPECHURCHTW.CA/LEARN