

I. WHY WOULD ANYONE ASK YOU FOR A REASON FOR YOUR HOPE? (1 PETER 3:15)

A. Christians' ought to be characteristically hopeful because Jesus is our hope (**1 Timothy 1:1; Titus 2:13**)

1. Jesus is the means of our hope (**1 Peter 1:3; Romans 5:2**)

2. Jesus secures our hope of eternal life (**1 Corinthians 15:16-19; Romans 8:23-25**)

B. Hope governs behavior, so what we hope in is revealed by how we live (**1 Peter 1:1-13; 1 John 3:2-3**)

1. We hope in the glory from God, so we fear God and seek to obey Him (**Colossians 1:27; Ecclesiastes 12:13-14; John 12:42-43**)

2. When we hope in the glory from man, we live in the fear of man and that changes our behavior (**1 Peter 3:14; Mark 12:13-17**)

II. A WELL-DEFENDED HOPE FLOWS FROM A HEART THAT HALLOWS CHRIST (1 PETER 3:15)

A. Hope in the heart of the one who hallows Christ (**1 Peter 3:15**)

1. We ought to pray for this reality (**Ephesians 1:16-21; Matthew 6:9**)

2. This hope is personal to you (**Romans 5:5**)

B. How can we prepare to have a well-defended hope? (**1 Peter 3:15**)

1. Ask two questions: 1) What are the reasons I, personally, have hope? 2) Why do I believe?

2. Let scripture be your guide (**Matthew 10:16-22; 26-33; Acts 26:1-29**)

