

# What We Believe

- We believe in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as verbally inspired of God, inerrant in the original writings, and of supreme and final authority in faith and life. *II Timothy 3:16; II Peter 1:20,21*
- We believe in one God, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. *Matthew 28:19; II Corinthians 13:14*
- We believe that Jesus Christ was begotten by the Holy Spirit, was born of the Virgin Mary and is true God and true man. *Luke 1:35; John 1:1*
- We believe that man was created in the image of God by His direct act and not from previously existing forms of life; that all men are descended from the historical Adam and Eve, first parents of the entire human race; that man sinned and thereby incurred not only physical death but also that spiritual death which is separation from God; and that all human beings are born with a sinful nature and become sinners in thought, word and deed. *Genesis 1:26,27; Romans 5:12*
- We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice and that all who believe in Him are justified on the ground of His shed blood. *I Corinthians 15:3; Romans 5:9*
- We believe in the resurrection of the crucified body of our Lord, in His ascension into heaven, and in His present life there for us as High Priest and Advocate. *I Corinthians 15:4,20; Luke 24:51; Book of Hebrews*
- We believe in “that blessed hope” – the personal, premillennial and imminent return of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. *Matthew 24:27,31; I Thessalonians 4:16,17, John 14:3; Titus 2:13*
- We believe that all who receive by faith the Lord Jesus Christ are born again of the Holy Spirit and thereby become the children of God; that they are thereafter indwelt by the Holy Spirit who makes possible a life of personal holiness and a walk of obedience to the will of God; and that all who are truly born again are “kept by the power of God” and, therefore, are incapable of losing their salvation. *John 1:12; 3:1-5; 10:28,29; 14:17; I Corinthians 3:16; 6:19; I John 5:1*
- We believe in the bodily resurrection of the just and the unjust, the everlasting blessedness of the saved, and the everlasting, conscious punishment of the lost. *John 5:28,29; Acts 24:15*

## **“Defending the Faith” Scripture Verses**

**Below are a few verses encouraging a defense of the faith including related subjects. The list is not exhaustive.**

Psalm 11: 3	I Peter 3: 14 – 15
Psalm 19: 7- 10	I Peter 5: 6 – 10
Psalm 94:16	2 Peter 1: 16 - 21
Proverbs 4:13	I John 3: 7
Proverbs 8: 12 – 14	I John 4: 1 - 3
Isaiah 5:20 – 21	I John 5:20
Jeremiah 29: 8	2 John 6 - 7
Matthew 13: 13 – 16	2 John 9 - 11
Acts 17: 11 – 24	Jude
I Corinthians 14:20	
2 Corinthians 10: 3 – 5	
2 Corinthians 11: 12 – 15	
Ephesians 5:6 – 14	
Philippians 1:16	
Colossians 2: 6 – 8	
I Timothy 4:1 – 2	
I Timothy 6: 20	
2 Timothy 3: 1 – 5	
2 Timothy 3:16 -17	
2 Timothy 4:1 – 4	
2 Thessalonians 2:3	

Defending the Christian faith was greatly needed in the infant New Testament Church and, undoubtedly, is still needed today. The defense of biblical truth is necessary because it has been and will always be under attack. Knowing what you believe and why you believe it is important in a world where seemingly everything is challenged. Without knowing biblical truth and how it can be defended, we are more vulnerable to fall prey to the warning in Colossians 2:8.

*Colossians 2:8 “Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.”*

Listed below are some resources from a Christian website with some additions from our pastoral staff and WIW teachers.

## **Recommended Apologetics Resources from the HP Pastoral Staff**

Brent Slater

*The Kingdom of Cults* by Walter Martin  
*The Case for a Creator* by Lee Strobel  
*The Case for Christ* by Lee Strobel  
*The Case for Faith* by Lee Strobel  
*Evidence That Demands a Verdict* by Josh McDowell  
*Undeniable* by Douglas Axe

Gordon Ainsworth

*Surviving Religion 101* by Michael Kruger

John Koenke

*Christian Apologetics* by Norman Geisler  
(John had the privilege of having Norman Geisler as a professor at Dallas.)

Jimmy Smith

*When Skeptics Ask* by Norman Geisler

Lake Slabach

*The Secular Creed* by Rebecca McLaughlin

Gar Hoover

*Live Your Truth and Other Lies* by Alisa Childers

## **Recommendation from our Women in the Word Teachers**

Leola Gee

*Evidence That Demands a Verdict* by Josh McDowell  
*Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis  
*The Question of God: C.S. Lewis and Sigmund Freud Debate God, Sex and  
The Meaning of Life* by Armand M. Nicholl, Jr.

Irma Henderson

*Decide for Yourself: A Theological Workbook* by Gordon R. Lewis  
*Defending Your Faith* by R.C. Sproul

Lynn West

Kay Arthur Precept Studies  
*Know Why You Believe* by Paul Little  
*The Bible Exposition Commentary of the New Testament* by Warren Wiersbe  
(His "Be" series in one book)

Alisa Hamil

*Connecting with Muslims* by Fouad Masri

Andrea Hockenbrocht

*Christian Beliefs: Twenty Basics Every Christian Should Know* by Wayne A. Grudem

Jill Huschilt

*The Complete Word Study of the Old Testament* by Spiros Zodhiates Th.D.

*The Complete Word Study of the New Testament* by Spiros Zodhiates, Th.D.

*New Bible Commentary – 21<sup>st</sup>-Century Edition,*

Edited by G.J. Wenham, J.A. Motyer, D.A. Carson, and R.T. France

*The MacArthur Bible Commentary* by John MacArthur

*The Moody Bible Commentary*, General Editors Michael Rydelnik and Michael Vanlaningham

*The Bible Speaks Today* commentaries published by IVP Academics.

Inell Slater

<https://www.hebrew4christians.com>

This website provides the Hebrew word with its nuances for an English word found in the Scriptures. It has many other helpful resources.

### **Additional Resources**

*The New City Catechism for Kids* (Simple Q & A for children 4 – 11) Crossway Books

*Who are You to Judge? Learning to Distinguish between Truth, Half-Truths and Lies* by Erwin Lutzer

*The Truth War* by John MacArthur

*Biblical Doctrine: A Systematic Summary of Bible Truth* by John MacArthur and Richard Mayhew.

<https://www.preceptaustin.org> An extensive website with commentaries, articles, devotionals, verse by verse explanations.

<https://www.biblegateway.com> In addition to verse or passage look up (with 100 translations or paraphrases of the Bible), Bible Gateway also has resource tools, devotionals, and reading plans

*The Truth Project* – A DVD series of 13 lessons on major issues of the day by Del Tackett and Focus on the Family. Outstanding

*Bible Project* videos available on YouTube.

**DEFENDING THE FAITH**

**INTRODUCTION**

A. Warnings

B. Important Definitions

1. Doctrine: “teaching”
2. Theology: “study of God”
3. Apologetics: “defending the faith”
4. Faith: “the Christian message of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ”
5. Apostasy: “serious error; abandonment; defection”
6. Defend: “uphold beliefs”
7. Contend: “assert earnestly”
8. Truth: “that which is consistent with the mind, will, \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ of God.”

**I. THE HPBC STATEMENT OF FAITH**

**II. THE SHIFT TOWARD PROGRESSIVISM**

A. Seventeenth century philosophers

B. Modernity

C. Postmodernism

1. Relativism
2. Progressivism including Progressive Christianity

**III. RECOGNIZING FALSE DOCTRINE**

See the other sheet – ‘Five Tests of False Doctrine’

<b>Mathematics of Cults &amp; False Doctrine</b>	
Addition +	They add an extra-biblical source of authority by prophet, pen or professor.
Subtraction --	They subtract from the person and work of Jesus Christ the Son of God. They deny His deity and find Inadequate His work of redemption.
Division :	They divide our allegiance from God through Christ alone to others.
Multiplication x	They multiply requirements for salvation. All advocate some form of works salvation.

From *Christ-Centered Exposition* by Daniel L. Akin

#### **IV. PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIANITY**

- A. A lowered view of the Bible
- B. Feelings are emphasized over facts.
- C. Essential doctrines are open for re-interpretation.
- D. Historic terms are re-defined.
- E. The Gospel message shifts from sin and redemption to social justice.

#### **V. THE IMPORTANCE OF PERSONAL WITNESS**

#### **VI. CULTURAL SHIFTS VERSUS TRUTH**

- A. Lawlessness and violence
- B. Assault against nature and the laws of God
- C. Increase in cultural and moral depravity
- D. The abandonment of Truth

## **VII. PRACTICAL WAYS TO DEFEND TRUTH**

- A. Read the Bible for yourself.
- B. Read other apologists and Christian authors.
- C. Pray for wisdom.

## **VIII. IS PERSECUTION COMING?**

### **CONCLUSION**

“For such as time as this.”

“Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world.”

“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”