



# Defending Your Faith

*Expository Apologetics*

“Always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you.”

PROVIDENCE REFORMED

BAPTIST CHURCH



# Lesson 4 – Answering Everyday Questions

- For the course of this study, we will be referencing “Expository Apologetics: Answering Objections with the Power of the Word” by Voddie Baucham.
- Chapter 4: Paul’s Expository Apologetic



## Lesson 4 – Answering Everyday Questions

Expository apologetics is a biblical approach to dealing with objections, which means we can find examples of it in the Bible.

This is expository apologetics in action!

Remember, expository apologetics is about being biblical, being easy to remember, and conversational.

In the Book of Romans, Paul gives us example after example as he asks questions and raises anticipated objections and answers them. The questions he asks flow naturally in his letter, are common, and could easily have come from skeptics or from Paul's own journey from Judaism to Christianity.



## Lesson 4 – Answering Everyday Questions

Let's examine Paul's pattern and see what questions he asked and answers.

1. Do Christians and Jews get saved the same way?

Romans 3:1 Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the value of circumcision?

If Jews are as guilty as Gentiles, what good is it to be Jewish? He begins his answer in verse 2.

Romans 3:2 Great in every respect. First of all, that they were entrusted with the oracles of God.



## Lesson 4 – Answering Everyday Questions

He then asks 3 related questions before answering later in verses 10-18.

a. Does man's unfaithfulness nullify God's faithfulness?

Romans 3:3 What then? If some did not believe, does their unbelief abolish the faithfulness of God? 4 May it never be! Rather, let God be true and every man a liar, as it is written, "That You may be justified in Your words, and overcome when You are judged."

The answer to his question is negative – "may it never be." This is his usual response, as if to say, "I know what you are thinking, but you are wrong." Our natural reactions are rooted in rejecting and suppressing the truth.



## Lesson 4 – Answering Everyday Questions

We also see that Scripture is the basis for his answer as he quotes Psalm 51:4 – this is expository apologetics! Answer questions and objections with the Word of God.

b. Are you saying my unrighteousness is good?

Romans 3:5 But if our unrighteousness demonstrates the righteousness of God, what shall we say? Is the God who inflicts wrath unrighteous? (I am speaking in human terms.) 6 May it never be! For otherwise, how will God judge the world?

Scriptural fact: God is judge of the world. This is not a quote, but a principle drawn from Scripture.



## Lesson 4 – Answering Everyday Questions

c. Why am I still condemned?

Romans 3:7 But if through my lie the truth of God abounded to His glory, why am I also still being judged as a sinner? 8 And why not say (as we are slanderously reported and as some claim that we say), “Let us do evil that good may come”? Their condemnation is just.

The reported slander involved people saying that Paul said things that he didn't say. He did not say to do evil so good can come from it.

(Romans 6:1 Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? 2 May it never be!)



## Lesson 4 – Answering Everyday Questions

The point is that God takes righteousness very seriously. As a result Jesus would be:

Romans 3:25 ...displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith, for a demonstration of His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed; 26 for the demonstration of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

He calls those who question him to task over their dishonesty – they've twisted what he said. If we are to have a conversation, it needs to be an honest conversation! Don't let others tell you what you believe because they will redefine terms.





## Lesson 4 – Answering Everyday Questions

Paul now answers his first question, “Are Jews better off?”

Romans 3:9 What then? Are we better? Not at all; for we have already charged that both Jews and Greeks are all under sin;

Not at all! All are under sin. He then quotes Scripture to make his point, citing Psalm 14:1-3; 53:1; 140:3; 10:7; Prov. 1:15; Isa. 59:7-8; and Psalm 36:1. This is a snapshot of man’s sinful condition drawn from the whole counsel of the Word of God.



## Lesson 4 – Answering Everyday Questions

Romans 3:10 as it is written, “There is none righteous, not even one;  
11 There is none who understands, There is none who seeks for God;  
12 All have turned aside, together they have become worthless; There  
is none who does good, There is not even one.” 13 “Their throat is an  
open tomb, With their tongues they keep deceiving,” “The poison of  
asps is under their lips”; 14 “Whose mouth is full of cursing and  
bitterness”; 15 “Their feet are swift to shed blood, 16 Destruction and  
misery are in their paths, 17 And the path of peace they have not  
known.” 18 “There is no fear of God before their eyes.”



## Lesson 4 – Answering Everyday Questions

Romans 3:19 Now we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are in the Law, so that every mouth may be shut and all the world may become accountable to God; 20 because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin.

Which leads to another question Paul answers in Romans is, “What is the Christian’s relationship to the Law?”

Romans 3:27 Where then is boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? Of works? No, but by a law of faith. 28 For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law.



## Lesson 4 – Answering Everyday Questions

Romans 3:29 Or is God the God of Jews only? Is He not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, 30 since indeed God, who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through that faith, is one. 31 Do we then abolish the Law through faith? May it never be! On the contrary, we establish the Law.

Paul then uses Abraham as his example and quotes Genesis 15:6.

Romans 4:3 For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.”

Romans 4:9 Therefore, is this blessing on the circumcised, or on the uncircumcised also? For we say, “Faith was counted to Abraham as righteousness.” 10 How then was it counted? While he was circumcised, or uncircumcised? Not while circumcised, but while uncircumcised;



## Lesson 4 – Answering Everyday Questions

So the next question is, “Can we just live any way we want?”

Again, this takes us to Romans 6:1 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? 2 May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it?

Notice in Romans how often Paul asks, “What then?” See 6:15; 7:7, 13; 8:31; 9:14, 19; 10:14; 11:1, 11.



## Lesson 4 – Answering Everyday Questions

### A Different Approach for a Different Audience – Acts 17

In Acts, Luke gives us an account of Paul's ministry. In chapter 17 we find his message to those on "Mars Hill."

In chapter 17 he begins with the Jews in the synagogue (vs. 1-3) and later he encounters the Greek and Roman philosophers in Athens. For the Jews he quoted Old Testament passages directly, knowing their familiarity with them. For the Gentiles, in order to meet them on "familiar ground," Paul refers to the content of Scripture regarding creation and the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ.



## Lesson 4 – Answering Everyday Questions

Creation: In the story of redemption, Paul starts “in the beginning.”

Acts 17:24 The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; 25 nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things; 26 and He made from one man every nation of mankind to inhabit all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation, 27 that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; 28 for in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we also are His offspring.’



## Lesson 4 – Answering Everyday Questions

The Fall: Paul introduces sin and the universal effects of the fall.

Acts 17:29 Being then the offspring of God, we ought not to suppose that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the craft and thought of man.

Re-imagining God in our own image is idolatry and sin!

Redemption: Sin requires repentance.

Acts 17:30 Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now commanding men that everyone everywhere should repent





## Lesson 4 – Answering Everyday Questions

Consummation: “The final link in the redemptive chain is the idea that God will bring all things to a conclusion that manifests his glory through the redemption of His elect and the punishment of the wicked.” (pg. 81).

Acts 17:31 because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He determined, having furnished proof to all by raising Him from the dead.”

The Response: Acts 17:32 Now when they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some began to sneer, but others said, “We shall hear you again concerning this.” 33 In this way, Paul went out of their midst. 34 But some men joined him and believed, among whom also were Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris and others with them.



## Lesson 4 – Answering Everyday Questions

The goal of connecting to our audience is the goal of getting them to the gospel.

This is not about being a “debater of this age” (1 Cor. 1:20), who can go toe-to-toe with an agnostic or atheist and never mention Scripture or raise Biblical principles. This is about understanding our audience and working to point them to the gospel in terms that they can understand.

We must remember that men really do believe in God, and they suppress that belief in unrighteousness. Our goal then is to know what WE believe and why we believe it so that we might be able to communicate it to others.



## Lesson 4 – Answering Everyday Questions

Moving forward we will look at putting these truths into practice by examining the foundation of our belief and the foundation of our discipleship.

Next Lesson: 5. Creeds, Confessions, and Catechisms.