



CHRISTIANS ON TRIAL

THE ELEMENTS OF A GOOD DEFENSE
ACTS 24:10-21

Dr. Mike Fabarez • Focal Point Radio Ministries • April 20 & 21, 2024 • Acts, week 119 • Msg. 24-14

1. Keep _____ (v.10a)

2. Keep _____ (v.10b)

3. Keep _____ (vv.11-13; 16b-21)

4. Keep _____ (vv.14-16a)

Acts 24:10 *And when the governor had nodded to him to speak, Paul replied: "Knowing that for many years you have been a judge over this nation, I cheerfully make my defense. **11** You can verify that it is not more than twelve days since I went up to worship in Jerusalem, **12** and they did not find me disputing with anyone or stirring up a crowd, either in the temple or in the synagogues or in the city. **13** Neither can they prove to you what they now bring up against me. **14** But this I confess to you, that according to the Way, which they call a sect, I worship the God of our fathers, believing everything laid down by the Law and written in the Prophets, **15** having a hope in God, which these men themselves accept, that there will be a resurrection of both the just and the unjust. **16** So I always take pains to have a clear conscience toward both God and man. **17** Now after several years I came to bring alms to my nation and to present offerings. **18** While I was doing this, they found me purified in the temple, without any crowd or tumult. But some Jews from Asia— **19** they ought to be here before you and to make an accusation, should they have anything against me. **20** Or else let these men themselves say what wrongdoing they found when I stood before the council, **21** other than this one thing that I cried out while standing among them: 'It is with respect to the resurrection of the dead that I am on trial before you this day.' "* (ESV)

Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's sermon. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point of today's study. It is also helpful when you are able to discuss your answers with others.

1. Read **1 Peter 3:13-14**. What are some specific ways you have received criticism or opposition because you have done what is good, godly, and right?
2. Read **1 Peter 3:15**. What do you think might be involved in "preparing" to make a good and appropriate defense to criticism or opposition because of your stand with Christ?
3. Read **1 Peter 3:15** again and consider the costs of giving well-reasoned responses to people's criticisms of Christianity but in a way that is overbearing and disrespectful. What damage can be done when we as Christians are rude, angry, and discourteous in our defense of Christ and the Bible?
4. Read **1 Peter 3:16**. Besides the manner in which we respond, what are some of the conscience-violating behaviors of Christians that damage our reputation and detract from the power of our defense of the truth?
5. Read **1 Peter 3:17-18**. How does the life and ministry of Christ during his first coming motivate and encourage you as you incur ongoing opposition and criticism for standing up for the truth and living faithfully for him?

The following related sermons are also available for downloading or streaming on the Focal Point Website and App (FPR.org).

- Msg. 10-05 – **Evangelistic Opposition: How to Respond to Objections**
- Msg. 17-36 – **Shining the Truth in a Dark Culture**
- Msg. 10-19 – **Looking for the Good When Things Go Bad**
- Msg. 06-38 – **Acquiring Strength & Stamina from an Omnipotent God**
- Msg. 11-09 – **Empathy for God's Embattled People**
- Msg. 14-05 – **The Practical Value of Integrity**
- Msg. 11-35 – **Keeping a Clear Conscience**

Daily Bible Reading Schedule

April 21 st	2Sam.1-3 & Lk.18:1-17
April 22 nd	2Sam.4-6 & Lk.18:18-43
April 23 rd	2Sam.7-9 & Lk.19:1-28
April 24 th	2Sam.10-12 & Lk.19:29-48
April 25 th	2Sam.13-14 & Lk.20:1-26
April 26 th	2Sam.15-16 & Lk.20:27-47
April 27 th	2Sam.17-18 & Lk.21:1-19
April 28 th	2Sam.19-20 & Lk.21:20-38

Here are some books which may assist you in a deeper study of the truths presented in today's sermon. While Pastor Mike cannot endorse every concept presented in each book, he does believe these resources will be helpful in profitably thinking through today's topic.

- Frank, Arnold L. **The Fear of God: A Forgotten Doctrine**. Second Edition. Nordskog Publishing, 2008.
- Geisler, Norman. **Baker Encyclopedia of Christian Apologetics**. Baker Books, 1999.
- MacArthur, John. **The Power of Integrity: Building a Life Without Compromise**. Crossway, 1997.
- Metzger, Will. **Tell the Truth: The Whole Gospel to the Whole Person by Whole People**. IVP, 1981.
- Mohler, Albert. **We Cannot Be Silent: Speaking Truth to a Culture**. Thomas Nelson Publishers, 2015.
- Nyquist, Paul. **Prepare: Living Your Faith in an Increasingly Hostile Culture**. Moody Publishers, 2015.
- Priolo, Lou. **Deception: Letting Go of Lying**. P & R Publishing, 2008.
- Schaeffer, Francis. **The God Who Is There: Speaking Historic Christianity into the 20th Century**. InterVarsity, 1968.
- Smith, William P. **How to Love Difficult People: Receiving and Sharing God's Mercy**. NG Press, 2008.
- Sproul, R.C. & et al. **Classical Apologetics: A Rational Defense of the Christian Faith**. Zondervan, 1984.
- Swindoll, Charles R. **Joseph: A Man of Integrity and Forgiveness**. Thomas Nelson Inc., 1998.
- Watson, Thomas. **The Art of Divine Contentment**. Soli Deo Gloria Publications, 1653 (reprint, 1998).
- Wiersbe, Warren. **The Integrity Crisis**. Oliver-Nelson Books, 1988.