



## **II. What is Apologetics ?**

Many non-Christians and even some professing Christians believe that Christianity is based on myths and is irrelevant in our age. They claim that faith is the same as believing something which you know to be untrue. To them, Christianity is superstition based primarily on subjective emotional considerations. These accusations, however, are far from true.

The Christian faith goes beyond man's reason, but not against it. Both Peter and Paul teach that we should be able to defend our belief in the Gospel: Consider the following verses: Acts 22:1; 25:16; 1 Corinthians 9:3; 2 Corinthians 7.11; Philippians 1.7, 16-17; 2 Timothy 4.16; 1 Peter 3.15.

In this last verse, Peter admonishes fellow Christians to give sound reasons to those who ask about our faith:

*“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:”*

The reason Peter gave this command is because he knew that Christianity is rational. Please take careful notice that the verse is a command. If we cannot or will not give reasons for our faith, are we not failing God as well as our fellow man? The wise and eloquent author C.S. Lewis wrote, "To be ignorant and simple now, not to be able to meet the enemy



on their own ground, would be to throw down our weapons and to betray our uneducated brethren who have under God no defense but us against the intellectual heathen. Good philosophy must exist if for no other reason because bad philosophy needs to be answered."<sup>1</sup>

- ***A Rational Faith***

Christianity is a rational belief system, which simply means that it makes good sense to the open and teachable mind. Being rational, however, must never be confused with the philosophy called *Rationalism*. The definition of Rationalism is: “A branch of philosophy where truth is determined by (human) reason.”<sup>2</sup> Too often, faith is seen as the rival of reason and is portrayed as the embodiment of the irrational. Rational Christianity stakes its existence on the opposite truth, that faith is the most rational thing someone can possibly have. The Christian writer John Galt points out, “Faith is not the enemy of reason — it is the foundation of reason. Without it, reason falls. Reason without faith is impossible.”<sup>3</sup> C.S. Lewis wrote: “Anyone who endeavors to be a Christian will soon find his intelligence being sharpened.”<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The Quotable Christian website.

<sup>2</sup> [www.carm.org](http://www.carm.org)

<sup>3</sup> John Galt; *Faith Verses Reason* article

<sup>4</sup> Mac Hammond, *The Winner's Minute* article Sept. 11, 2009.