

# Can You Defend Your Life

*Warren Wiersbe*

## I. Introduction.

- A. We do not often look for opportunities to glorify God in tight spots as Paul did.
- B. The greatest defense of the faith is a life lived for God's glory.
- C. Paul made four wonderful discoveries with his testimony.

## II. Paul discovered the Lord.

- A. Paul thought he knew God as a great Jew.
- B. Many claim to know God but really do not.
- C. Paul discovered that Jesus was God, he was risen and that he came to save. (1 Timothy 1:1-15)

## III. Paul discovered himself.

- A. Paul saw that he was the one persecuting Jesus.
- B. Paul saw that he was a sinner. (Philippians 3:4)
- C. Paul had to give up his false righteousness in order to become a Christian.
- D. Paul discovered that his religion would not save him.
- E. He discovered that "godly service" was actually hurting God. (Acts 22:14-15)
- F. Paul discovered that everything he was holding on to was cheap in comparison to knowing Christ.

## IV. Paul discovered the church.

- A. The church welcomed their former enemy in, and he became one of the great builders of the church.
- B. Many people need to find the fellowship that is available in the church today.

## V. Paul discovered the Gentiles.

- A. God gave Paul a tremendous compassion for lost souls.
- B. Paul found that the Gentiles were just as much a part of God's program as the Jews.
- C. The church must not have a proud attitude towards outsiders like the Jews had.
- D. Exclusiveness will kill the church today.

### **Application questions:**

1. Who do you know that best defends the faith through their lives? What sets their testimony apart for you?

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2. How would you respond to a Christian who refuses to go to church based upon the message? Explain.

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3. How can we do better at cultivating an inclusive attitude in the church today? Be specific.

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