KNOW WHAT YOU BELIEVE AND WHY YOU BELIEVE IT!

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear. -- 1 Peter 3:15

While attending college in the early 1980’s I read two books authored by Paul E. Little with titles Know What You Believe and Know Why You Believe. These two books, along with Know Who You Believe, complete this trilogy which is still in print nearly forty years after his passing. "There are just a few timeless treasures in Christian literature. Know What You Believe is one of them. I am confident that the expanded and updated version of this book will be as important to this generation as it was in the days when I was a student." – Joseph Stowell, former president, Moody Bible Institute "As a student, I love Paul's teaching. As an apologist, I am grateful for his impact. Know Why You Believe is a valuable piece of work." – Ravi Zacharias

On the second Friday of each September, the public school at which I taught had half days which shortened the length of each class period. There was sufficient time to pose one of my favorite mathematics questions over which class debate and dialogue always produced energetic and emotional assertions. The obvious answer was immediately adopted by most if not all students. I would then offer several proofs that the alternative was the correct conclusion. One by one, students would switch to the correct conclusion. Yet there would always be one student unwilling to switch. As the end of class neared, I would ask for reasons from this holdout and responses typically included “proofs” like, “You can’t be right.” Or “I know I am right.” Or “It just can’t be right.” Such scholarship is regrettably all too common whether applied to mathematics or to faith.

Many of our children know what to believe and learn this while growing up in Christian households. Unfortunately, when confronted with antagonists who oppose these beliefs, their preparation is less satisfactory. Our preamble mandates that every believer be ready “in season or out of season” 2 Timothy 4:2 to give an explanation – to answer the “why” questions – for their faith, for the “hope that lies within.” And in a time with decreasing hope and lessening optimism, there may be no better evangelism method than to exude hope and to be able to explain why.

“Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the Sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God.” John 5:18 What follows this verse are several proofs supporting Jesus’ equality with God the Father. Believers know that Jesus is God. Can each one prove that Jesus is God? Jesus points to several “witnesses” as He continues. God the Father and God the Son share the same goals. v:19 They share the same authority. v:21 They share the same honor. v:23 John the Baptist bears witness. v:32 The Works of the Father bear witness. v:36 And finally the Old Testament Scriptures testify that Jesus is God, that He is the prophesied Messiah. v:39 What else does this remarkable chapter say and prove about Jesus?

Perhaps you made a resolution earlier this month to get to know Jesus better by daily studying His Word. Please accept this gentle encouragement to know What, Why and Who you believe!

Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. – John 5:39