

Title: “*Doctrine Drives Apologetics, Part III*”

Introduction: Apologetics is in assents how the believer communicates with and to the sceptic. The intent of the believer is not to intimidate or humiliate ones’ unbelieving friend, but rather to persuade that friend to come into a personal relationship through faith in Jesus Christ.

The baseline for apologetics and the persuasion of the skeptic is Bible doctrines. Persuasion is not about personality, though it helps to be likeable, but rather about setting the stage so that the Spirit of God may touch the heart of the skeptic.

Some people are more likely to be persuaded by emotion. If that is the case, it will be the doctrine of the Word of God that cements the newly formed biblical worldview. On the contrary, some allow their hearts to be moved, but only after the “gatekeeper” of the intellect has granted permission to do so. In this situation the skeptic must first absorb biblical doctrine, and once those have been

“received intellectually,” than and only then will the heart receive biblical doctrine.

The last two Bible doctrines we will discuss before getting into apologetics are: The doctrine of the church; and the doctrine of future things. First, the church:

I. The Doctrine of the Church: Ecclesiology.

A. The definition of the local church: A call out assembly of faithful believers for the purpose of worship and service.

B. The definition of the universal church: Many times the Church, Big C, refers to all that have called on the name of the Lord for salvation. Many go even further and stated, all those in human history are part of the Church.

1. First clarification: All those that have ever placed their faith in Christ are not the church, but rather the Bride of Christ.

2. To be more theologically precise, all believers, past and present make up the “*Espoused Bride of Christ.*”
3. **Second clarification:** The local church is not Israel and Israel is not the local church.
4. **Third clarification:** The true church, sometimes called the “remnant” has been present in every dispensation of time. If you are struggling with the term, church in the OT, try on the idea of OT believers. God has promised a remnant, and He has been faithful to do so. We can trust Him.
5. **Forth clarification:** The local church is a called out assembly, as opposed to a geographically appointed assembly. In other words one must have their hearts persuaded to come into a local church.

C. The biblical perspective of a local church.

1. NT Church movement beginning:

Matt. 3:1-6 “In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. And the same John had his raiment of camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey. Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan, And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins.”

2. NT local church movement empowered:

Acts 2:41-42 “Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.”

vs. 42 “And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.”

3. End of NT church dispensation:

Rev. 4:1 “After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.”

II. The Doctrine of Future Things: Ecclesiology.

A. Definition of dispensation: Sometimes referred to as a period of time. Other times a dispensation is referred to as a stewardship.

B. Why a stewardship: The Bible mentions “time” 620 times and so a dispensation is simply a stewardship of our time.

C.Ecclesiology: Future Dispensations of Time.

1. The end of the church dispensation:

- a.) **Revelation 4:1** “After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.”

2. The Return of Christ in the clouds:

- a.) **Acts 1:11** “Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.”

- b.) **Matthew 24:29-30** “Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.”
- c.) **Matthew 24:36-38** “But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark,”

- d.) **Matthew 25:10-13** “And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut. Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not. Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.
- e.) **I Thess. 4:16-17** “For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

f.) **I Thess. 5:2-3** “For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.”

3.) The Mid-Tribulation:

a.) **Rev. 11:2-4** “But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months. And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth. These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth.”

4.) **Rev. 13:1-8** “And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority. And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast. And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him? And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.

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And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations. And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.”

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Applications:

1. Go to Knight's Notes on Excellent Way.tv and download the notes. Read all the notes and write down any questions that you may have.
2. Discuss these notes with a friend or family member. Sharpen your understanding of God's timeline.
3. Memorize at least one verse that has to do with Christ' return.

Where we began:

- Supremacy of Scripture
- Bible Doctrines #'s 1-7

Next time:

- Hermeneutics

Followed:

- Apologetics of Isaiah