
REASON FOR HOPE

Session I, Christ and Culture

Wisconsin Association of Regular Baptist Churches, 4/11/15

Pastor Chris Brauns / @chrisbrauns / www.chrisbrauns.com

MEET ASHLEY
DIAMOND



CONCERNED?



SESSIONS

1. **Reason for Hope: Orientation from I Peter**
 2. **Unbelievable:** The unbelievable pace at which a biblical view of marriage became unbelievable.
 3. **Responding With Reasons:** Reasoning for hope.
 4. **Panel Discussion**
-

TONE

1. Multiple Audiences
 2. The Heart of a Pastor
-

CONCERNING TIMES

1. Noah warns the world & builds an ark (\cong 2,350 B.C.).
 2. David's feigns madness & hides with the Philistines (\cong 1,000 B.C.).
 3. Ahaz fears Israel/Jordan alliance & appeals to Assyria (\cong 700 B.C.).
 4. From Rome ("Babylon"), Peter encourages Christians scattered in Asia Minor as Christians face escalating persecution (\cong 63 A.D.).
-

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you,

—1 Peter 1:3-4, c.f. 1 Peter 1:21

5 ACTIONS OF HOPEFUL CHURCHES:

1. Unify as churches (1 Peter 3:8).
(Counter with Community!)
 2. Be motivated to bless rather than curse (1 Peter 3:9-12).
 3. Cry out in prayer (1 Peter 3:12).
-

ACTIONS OF HOPEFUL CHURCHES (CONTINUED):

4. **Fear not** (1 Peter 3:13, c.f. Joshua 1:6-9, Isaiah 41:10-14).
 5. **Reason for hope: apologetics /**
ἀπολογία: (1 Peter 3:15)! - - but *gently*
and respectfully.
-

AND A 6TH - BE CHRISTOCENTRIC

Christ went to the Cross as the substitute for His people - - -facing all the powers of the forces of darkness (1 Peter 3:18-22).

The Christocentric Structure of 1 Peter 2:13-3:22

2:13 Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution . . .

2:18 Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect . . .

2:21 For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps . . .

3:1 Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands . . .

3:7 Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way . . .

3:8 Finally, all of you, have unity of mind . . .

3:18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit . . .

THE RIGHT QUESTION IS ...

1. NOT: Do we realize how bad things are?
 2. RATHER: “Do we realize how *hopeful* things are?”
-