

DEFENDERS OF THE FAITH

By Keith Greer

God's people will be called upon to defend the principles of truth contained in God's word.

Let us examine some passages that teach us about this important duty.

To be held fast. "Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. That good thing which was committed to you, keep by the Holy Spirit who dwells in us." (2 Timothy 1:13,14) God's word must never be compromised. Truth is something that we "hold fast" by molding our lives around its teaching.

Must be contended for. "Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints." (Jude 3) God's children must always be willing to defend His word against any attacks from the enemies of truth. Earnest effort must be extended to preserve the integrity of God's word when it is perverted or twisted. Sadly, such twisting will lead to destruction, "As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures." (2 Peter 3:16)

Those who disown it, separate from. "Useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. From such withdraw yourself." {1 Timothy 6:5} Unfortunately, some of God's own children will have no respect for the word of truth. Character that would seek to suppress or be ashamed of His truth must be separated from. Why? The danger of leading others in the same direction!

We live in an age where so many have no confidence, respect or knowledge of God's truth. Today the Bible is viewed as a book of "good suggestions," "good morals," and "good stories" to tell your children. Sadly, the majority of the world does not look at God's word as a book of authority and the standard of judgment for all men—yet both are true. All Christians are to be true "**defenders of the faith.**" Dear reader, have you prepared yourself to defend this wonderful book? ***