

How to Defend a Lion

Ray Stedman

I. Introduction.

- A. Text: II Timothy 1:14-2:2.
- B. Sometimes, a lion needs defending by turning it loose for itself. Scripture is like a lion.
- C. The great claim of Christianity is that it is the truth.
- D. The Bible is God's instruction book that goes along with man.

II. The beginnings of apostasy is always to deny the authority of an apostle.

- A. Paul had great success in Asia minor.
- B. However, only a few years later they all had turned against him.
- C. We face apathy today.
- D. We must guard the truth in these times.

- 1. Onesiferus modeled this.
- 2. He was fearless, faithful and cheerful.

III. Ways Timothy was expected to turn the "lion" of truth loose.

- A. Be strong yourself in the grace that is in Christ Jesus when things start to fall apart.
 - 1. If you want to strengthen others, you need to be strong yourself.
 - 2. Onesiferus was an example of this.
 - 3. It is grace that strengthens.
 - 4. Grace is never available to strong people—grace demands that we admit our weakness and not our strength.
 - 5. God enables us to do what we otherwise could not do—grace is supernatural.
 - 6. Grace brings zing to life.
 - 7. If we want others to learn this, we need to demonstrate it in our own life.
- B. Pass it on—communicate it.
 - 1. How to determine faithful people.

- a. They have a searching mind wanting to learn.
 - b. They have a humble heart.
 - c. They have an evident gift.
 - d. They have a faithful spirit.
2. We all just live one generation from total apostasy.
3. We must practice a daily communion with Jesus Himself and communicate that to those around us.

Application questions:

1. Why are we not obligated to defend the Scriptures? Explain.

2. How is grace related to strength when it comes to standing firm on God's Word?

3. What will you do better in the coming week to communicate and pass on God's Word? Explain.
