

Defending Our Hope

“...in your hearts
honor Christ the Lord as holy,
always being prepared
to make a defense
to anyone who asks you
for a reason for the HOPE
that is in you...” (1 Peter 3:15)

Defending Our Hope

hope:

(n.) the **confident expectation**
that our lives will turn out well
because of who God is and
what He has promised.

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hope is built on the foundation of God's past works, yet always looks forward to the future completion and perfection of these works.

Defending Our Hope

- > **Remembering** our New Birth
- > **Realizing** true Holiness
- > **Recovering** the Power of the Gospel
- > **Following** Christ's Example

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“...the holiness the New Testament is concerned with is centered on being Christlike, living in outrageous, self-sacrificial love.”

(Greg Boyd, *The Myth of a Christian Nation*, 71)

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Gospel > **Hope** > **Faith** > **Love**

The Elders:

“elders”

Deals with “age” and **respect**

“shepherding”

Their **role** in the community

“exercising oversight”

Their **responsibility**

The Elders:

not under **compulsion** (as a duty),
but **willingly**

not for **shameful gain**,
but **eagerly**

not **domineering** (...),
but being **examples** to the flock

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The Elders: Shepherd in humility

The Younger: Submit in humility

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And after you have suffered a little while, **the God of all grace**, who has **called you to his eternal glory** in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.

To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen...

**This is the true grace of God,
stand firm in it.**

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