

Small Group Interaction Questions:

MEANWHILE: The Church that lives and waits
“A Reason For Hope: Rejected!” 3/22/09
1 Peter 3:13-15; Acts 17:16-34

Dear Friends,

Who of us has not hesitated at some point to speak of our faith in Jesus Christ because we felt we would be rejected, ostracized, or asked a hard question we could not answer? This is a fear we will never completely conquer, partly because we are social creatures and we seek to belong, but mostly because these situations are always new, and sometimes the answers are not obvious. Our guide, the apostle Peter, admonishes us to always be ready to give an answer. There are questions and intimidating situations you face today where your commitment to Christ is challenged. Thank God that He has provided skilled thinkers and writers, beginning with scripture, who help us see through the fear to the solid answers. May God bless you as you sharpen each other through this discussion.

Pastor Roger

- 1) Be honest: Can you think of a specific situation where you felt you should speak up for your faith, but you just didn't know what to say? Are there big questions (evolution, war, suffering, etc) or experiences where you feel intimidated or fearful that there may not be a sufficient biblical answer?
- 2) Read 1 Peter 3:13-15, and then read Acts 17:16-34 as a classic example of Paul defending his commitment to Jesus Christ. Spend some time observing in the text his motive, his courage, and his method of defending the faith.
- 3) In vs. 24-28 Paul lays out a comprehensive, biblical World View. What are some of the elements of this World View? Is anything missing?
- 4) What aspect of a biblical World View needs to be strengthened in your life? What have you heard, read, or experienced that has helped you?
- 5) Peter's motive and Paul's method are aiming at one thing: helping skeptical and lost people see Jesus Christ clearly, without their pre-conceived biases and roadblocks. As you pray tonight, name some people for whom you are concerned. Pray for your opportunity to show and speak of your hope in Jesus.