

Port Orchard Church of Christ



What is Apologetics?

You walk up to the man on the street and tell him that Jesus Christ loves him and died so he could receive forgiveness of his sins. You explain that everyone should obey Jesus because He is the Son of God. The man wants to know how you know this information. You inform him that the Bible, the inspired Word of God, declares it to be true. He wants to know two things: (1) How can you prove that there is a God?; and (2) How can you prove that the Bible is His Word? He is not being belligerent or cantankerous; he simply wants some good evidence that would warrant the total overhaul of his life you are asking him to make.

It is now your responsibility to present solid, rational arguments that prove the things you have affirmed. You must defend the propositions you have presented. You are appointed for the **defense** of the Gospel (Philippians 1:17, NKJV).

The term “apologetics” derives from the Greek word *apologia*, which means “to defend” or “to make a defense.” Thus, apologetics is a discipline dedicated to the defense of something. There can be as many different types of apologetics as there are beliefs in the world: atheistic apologetics, Hindu apologetics, Buddhist apologetics, Christian apologetics, *ad infinitum*. However, generally when the discipline is discussed, most people associate it with **Christian** apologetics. Therefore, for the remainder of this discussion, when I use the term apologetics, I will be referring specifically to Christian apologetics.

What is apologetics? Christian philosopher Dick Sztanyo has suggested: “Apologetics is the proclamation and defense of the gospel of Christ regardless of whenever, wherever, and by whomever it is challenged.” The apostle Peter used apologetics when he appealed to the empty tomb on Pentecost. Paul used apologetics when he quoted the stoic poets to draw attention to God’s existence as he addressed the Athenians. Christ used apologetics when He appealed to a Roman coin to prove that Jews should pay taxes. We can see, then, that the word apologetics carries no hint of “apologizing”—in the sense of being sorry or ashamed. On the contrary, the word houses the exact opposite idea of intelligent vindication by vigorous argument. In fact, Paul stated in 2 Corinthians 10:4-5: “For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, **casting down arguments** and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.” Apologetics vigorously defends the truth by refuting arguments that exalt themselves above God’s Word.

What tools, then, can apologetics use to “cast down” faulty arguments? Its toolbox is as endlessly deep as it is long. Any discipline—from astronomy to zoology—can be called upon to come to the aid of apologetics. Just as Peter used the physical evidence of the empty tomb, just as Paul used contemporary literature, and just as Jesus used an inscription on a coin, modern apologists can use archaeology, literature, science, morality, technology, and countless other facets of human life to defend
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Deacons:

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Gene Gerard..... 360.876.4612
Troy Hill 360.674.7181
Brad Orser..... 360.874.8184

Welcome Guests

We are so glad that you decided to visit Port Orchard Church of Christ this morning! Since you took this step to join us for worship, we would like to extend to you a warm welcome. Wherever you are this morning, as we lift worship to God, we pray that you are able to leave feeling uplifted, convicted, or encouraged in your faith.

We seek to worship God like the first century church did, with a sense of awe and with a fear of the Lord. Some things we do might seem old

fashioned or traditional, but we want you to know that at its core, it is for the praise of God's glory.

You are not required to do anything weird or ostentatious. We hope that you feel free to join us in worshipping God to the best of your abilities. If you have any specific needs, we have a ministry staff that would love to connect with you. Ask the people sitting around you for names of the ministry staff and to point them out!

Once again, we are so happy to have you here worshipping with us and we hope this is a chance to worship God in a deep and meaningful way.

-Port Orchard Church of Christ

Save the Dates!

Saturday 02/03 Deacons' Meeting
8:00 AM

Sunday 02/04 Children's Bible Classes
9:30 AM New Schedule

Sunday 02/04 Congregational Meeting

Sunday 02/11 Potluck



Serving January 21, 2018:

Port Orchard News and Events

Pulpit Preview

Brad Orser will be sharing a message with us. Worship Service begins at 10:45. We hope to see you here!

Happy Birthday!

January: Mark David-02, Joshua Bedford-04, Connie Switzer-05, Jo Vaughn-06, Shirley DeFord-09, Pat Woodrow-09, Isaiah Zepf-13, Runell Mason-16, Karen Taylor-18, Evalina Kenady-19, Mike Chavez-20, Forest Gerard-24, Michelle Herbert-24, Sarah Blair-25, Hannah Wheeler-28, Tammy White-29, Myron David-30.

Last Sunday

Seth Cartwright shared his missionary experiences with us last Sunday. If you missed his message, please visit the church website at pococ.weebly.com to listen.

Spiritual Leadership Group (SLG)

The SLG is asking for prayers for encouragement and direction within their group.

Dream Bowl

There is a glass bowl and blue cards on the cabinet in front of the Missions board in the foyer for members to submit what they envision for our congregation in the future. This bowl is for anything ranging from spiritual matters to physical matters. Please include your name on your submission so that you may be contacted.

Prayer Leader: Wayne Hammock

Scripture Reader: Brad Orser

Offering Thoughts: Dave Snypp

Communion Meditation: Dale Sanders

Servers: David Lawrence & Dan G.

Ushers: Brandon K. & Terry Bratcher

Greeters: Karen T. & Deloris Lawler

Prayer Partners: Terry & Lisa Bratcher

Sound: Brittany Pringle

Slides/Lighting: Jacob Hammock

Communion Prep: Keagles

Communion Cleanup: Reinkes

Song Leader: David Nance

Children's 9:30 Helper: Karen Taylor

Children's Church: Kelli Keagle

Preaching: Brad Orser



Tokyo Bound Youth Donut Fundraiser from Paula Hill

Sarah and I will be selling Krispy Kreme donuts to help raise funds for our trip to Japan with the "Tokyo Bound Youth" in June. Prices are \$12 for original dozen and \$13 for assorted dozen. Payment will be due by Thursday, January 25th and pick-up/delivery will be on Saturday, January 27th. We will be at the GameStop in Port Orchard promoting the "Battle Bus" from 11-3pm. Come and play your favorite video games and pick up your donuts! Thanks in advance!

Children's Classes Schedule Revision

The children's classes schedule has been revised in order to better serve our children and teachers. The schedule will be very similar to the schedule we had at the beginning of last year. **Beginning Sunday, February, 4th**, the Children's Bible classes will take place at **9:30 am** instead of having a craft time. At the end of the class time, children will be released to join their parents in the auditorium for Communion and Worship. After worship during the sermon, a video or activity will be shown downstairs for our young folk, like the "Children's Worship" we used to have. There is no age limit for this class. There will be no "Children's Worship" on Fifth Sundays to encourage our children to participate in the adult service. If you are able to help with Children's Class at 9:30 or Young People's Worship at 10:45, please contact Laura Fry or the church office. If you have not already, you will need to fill out and submit a WA state background check to the office.

Delano Family Day from Lisa Bratcher

Help Needed: On **June 9th, 2018**, we are having a Delano Family Day (This is a replacement event for Delano Day). The specific help needed right now is for individuals who have benefited from the camp as a camper or staff **to be part of a Steering Committee**. There are two qualifications for members on the Steering Committee: #1 - You have to love Delano and have a desire to see it continue as a place where young people can find and grow in faith. #2 - You have to be a team player having the goal of making sure the next generation hears about Delano Bay Christian Camp. **Please Notify Dennis Baker by February 3, 2018**. Meetings will be conducted online with Go To Meeting, which also allows for phone-in participants. Here is contact information for Dennis (Cell # [253.312.7288](tel:253.312.7288); E-mail address is be.ye.glad1@gmail.com). I look forward to hearing from you and I am excited about this new event to highlight the amazing place that Delano is.

Our Prayer List

Healing:

Billy Mann, friend of Bonnie Mitchell
Matthew Esquivel's brother Eric recovering from heart attack
Daniel Tillman recovering from brain surgery
Colleen & Larry Trail
Tammy Avery's friend Roxanne
Virginia Chapman
Delores Brun
Runell Mason
David Latham
Wayne Hammock's friend Dave
Melvin Byrd

Encouragement:

Gardner Family moving to Hope of Honduras Children's Home
Spiritual Leadership Group
Those Grieving the loss of Loved Ones

Traveling:

Sneads, Sibleys, & Frys
Seth & Sarah Cartwright

Other:

Our children, church, nation, President Trump and ministries.
That God will bless our deacons with wisdom in reaching the many decisions they are entrusted with.

January 14, 2017

Worship: 87

Class: 40

Offering: \$2,692.00

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Christianity. A small child can watch ants hard at work and testify to the wisdom of the book of Proverbs. An astrophysicist can contemplate the Second Law of Thermodynamics and maintain that the world will not last forever. An archaeologist can find an ancient inscription about a people known as the Hittites and assert that the Bible has accurate information about this ancient group of people. A professor of literature can read poetry from ages past and ascertain that mankind always has desired to worship a Creator Who is infinitely higher than humanity. From the heights of the mountains to the depths of the oceans, facts surface that provide an ample array of ammunition that can be fired from the cannon of apologetics.

However, the machinery of apologetics can operate only on the fuel of reason, for without reason apologetics has no sure foundation. The *Merriam-Webster Collegiate Dictionary* defines reason as "the power of comprehending, inferring, or thinking, especially in orderly, rational ways." Paul contrasted reason with insanity in Acts 26:24-25: "Now as he thus made his defense, Festus said with a loud voice, 'Paul, you are beside yourself! Much learning is driving you mad!' But

he said, 'I am not mad, most noble Festus, but speak the words of truth and reason.' " God and His spokesmen always have spoken rational, reasonable truths. God employed reason to convince Isaiah's listeners of their sin: " 'Come now, and let us reason together,' says the Lord, 'Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow' " (Isaiah 1:18). When Samuel spoke to the Israelites at the coronation of Saul, he said: "Now therefore, stand still, that I may reason with you before the Lord concerning all the righteous acts of the Lord which He did to you and your fathers" (1 Samuel 12:7). From the dawn of time, God presented man with the facts, and then allowed man to use reason to reach correct conclusions. Thus, Romans 1:20 states: "For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being **understood** by the things that are made...." Reason provides for the removal of all contradictory and fallacious arguments, leaving only those facts that are consistent and correct.

The Christian religion, at its core, is based upon historically verifiable facts. The Bible is not a sourcebook of wise proverbs that somehow stand upon their own merit. Without an establishment of the facts concern-

ing the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, the Word of God as we know it—even with all of its sound wisdom and practical guidance—is nothing more than a devotional book full of helpful platitudes that deserves to be placed on the shelf next to the *Chicken Soup for the Soul* series. By using historical facts that are consistent and correct, apologetics makes its defense by appealing to man's capacity to reason. God never has desired that His human creatures blindly accept unreasonable propositions postulated by perverse persons. He does not want us to be "children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness by which they lie in wait to deceive (Ephesians 4:14). On the contrary, He demands that we "test all things; hold fast what is good" (2 Thessalonians 5:21). In the end, however, apologetics can soften only the hearts of those who agree to be honest with themselves and to deal honestly and reasonably with the available evidence. There is much truth in the old adage: "A man convinced against his will is of the same opinion still."

-Kyle Butt, M. Div.

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