

(An impressive introduction made by Dr. McIntire)

I'm very fond of the 1st ch. of 1 Pet. and especially of those last three verses. "Being born again not of corruptible seed but of incorruptible, by the Word of God which lives and abides forever; for all flesh is like grass and all the glory of man like the flower of grass. The grass withers and its flower falls away, but the word of the Lord endures forever, and this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you."

I'd like to speak to you this morning about the defense of the Bible. Some years ago I remember a man becoming very indignant about people talking about defending the Bible. He said the Bible is just like a lion. Just turn it loose. Why should we defend it? He went on to say he thought there were a lot of people over here who were defending the Bible and a lot of people over here attacking it, and nobody preaching it. What he said is people preaching the Bible rather than people defending the Bible.

That statement like so many other statements, contains a very strong half-truth, and is very easy to be led astray by a half truth into total error. Of course I agree we don't need to defend the Bible. The Bible is God's Word. The Bible does not need any defense. But we need to defend people being misled about the Bible. We need to protect people from erroneous attacks on the Bible, from misrepresentation, from questions that keep them from getting the truth of God's Word. Of course it is far more important to preach the Word of God than to defend it. There is nothing in the world so important as bringing the message of salvation to people, bringing the Word of God to them so they can know what its truth is and see how to be saved, and that people who believe in Christ may know how to grow in grace and knowledge of the Lord. There is nothing in the world as important as this.

Yet why is that 60 yrs. ago there were probably 30 times as many people in this country preaching the Word of God as there are today. There are more ministers in the country today by far, just as there are more people. But today the proportion of the ministers who are actually preaching the Word of God instead of tearing it to pieces is comparatively small. Why has this occurred? It has occurred because there have not been enough defending the Word of God. It has occurred because there have been many attacking the Word, and others who might have been defending it have been satisfied simply to say that's all nonsense, I'm not interested in that. That's not true, let's just stand by God's Word." Well, that's the attitude the Christian should have - let's stand by God's Word. Let God be true and every man a liar. If God's Word says one thing and all the scholars in the world say something different, I'm ready to wait to get more evidence because I know that in the end whatever God says will be proven true. But when I read something in the Word of God, and then I find a great many intelligent people saying something different, I'm not going right away to say, O you folks are all wrong.