

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

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Reasoning

"Man is the only animal capable of reasoning, though many others possess the faculty of memory and instruction in common with him." – Aristotle

"True courage is a result of reasoning. A brave mind is always impregnable." – Jeremy Collier

"More by example than by word, my father taught me logical reasoning, compassion, love of others, honesty, and discipline with applied understanding." – Paul D. Boyer

"Re-examining our reasoning is not something that has come naturally to American statesmen." – Samantha Power

"These rare senses and powers of reasoning were given to be used freely, but not audaciously, to discover, not to pervert the truth." – William John Wills

Webster defines *reasoning* as, "The process of thinking about something in a logical way in order to form a conclusion or judgment."

In the Old Testament, *reasoning* was viewed as an argument or defense (Job 13:6). In the New Testament, we find a reference to it with some of the scribes, who "reckoned thoroughly" or "deliberated" upon what Jesus said (Mark 2:6).

But then we come to a fascinating passage in reference to the work of the apostle Paul. "And he went into the synagogue and spoke boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading concerning the things of the kingdom of God. But when some were hardened and did not believe, but spoke evil of the Way before the multitude, he departed from them and withdrew the disciples, reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus" (Acts 19:8-9).

Here the Greek, a form of what was used in Mark 2:6, carries a different connotation. Rendered *disputing* in the KJV, it meant, "to say thoroughly." It had the idea of a discussion.

We know from Paul's writings that he was not a man of few words. No doubt when he discussed a sacred matter, he went into considerable detail to make sure that there was no doubt about what he was teaching. This implies considerable knowledge, for how can one reason or say thoroughly about a matter if they lack the information?

This brings to mind the admonition, "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear" (1 Pet. 3:15). The word translated *defense* in the NKJV, appears in other translations as an "answer." It is from a word that means "a plea or apology." It is not asking for forgiveness, but refers to the ability to offer a reason for what one believes.

May we take heed to Peter's admonition so we can reason from the Scriptures.