

### Introduction

- It was completely lost and unknown until 1436 when it was used as wrapping paper to sell fish. It was found a collection of other works of Justin Martyr, another apologist. The copy was destroyed in Strasburg in 1870 by the Prussians.
- The author is unknown, but seems to be a disciple of the apostles.
- The letter is written to a non-Christian and gives us an example of how the earliest believers defended the faith.
- The goal of apologetics is not to win but to be faithful.

### Critique of Idols

- He points out the foolishness of worshipping idols made by man's hands.
- He asks if they would consent to being treated like their idols are treated.
- Pointing out the foolishness or logical inconsistencies of the world's beliefs is part of doing apologetics.

### Jewish Distinction

- The early church worked hard to distinguish their faith from Judaism.
- The Jews claim to worship the right God but offer up worthless worship.
- They did not observe the sabbath as a holy rest from work.
- This distinction is still important for us because our faith rests in Christ not in the law.

### Christian Living

- One of the main apologetic strategies was to point to the holy lives Christians lived.
- Christians followed local customs and dress, but their character was what marked them as different.
- Christians did not expose infants, share their wives, and gave to the poor.
- He quotes 1 Peter about Christian's true citizenship being in heaven.
- Our lives are our witnesses to Christ and we should be able to do this.
- The greatest apologetic is a holy life lived in Christ.

### Gospel Proclamation

- Christianity is not a human idea, mystery, or invention but the proclamation of God.
- God Himself came down to earth to teach us the gospel.
- He came humble as a human being to gently teach us and offer us life.
- God did not come down to destroy or force us to believe and serve Him.
- Apologetics is incomplete if the gospel is not proclaimed.

### The Love and Revelation of God

- The apostolic strategy is explaining what our God is like.
- No one has any idea of what God is like unless He decides to reveal Himself.

- He emphasizes the tenderhearted and patient nature of God.
- He points out that our God is unchanging and will never become worse.
- What if we appealed to people based more on the character of the God we worshipped instead of logical proofs of why He is in charge?

## Apostolic Tradition

- The faith was not invented by human beings but given to us by God.
- The faith was transmitted to us by the apostles.
- The author received it from the apostles and is trying to faithfully pass it on.
- Part of God's work is preserving the traditions and boundaries of the apostles.

## Necessity of Faith

- The author does not believe faith can be gained through intellectual means.
- One is only permitted to see God through faith (8:6).
- We are unable to enter the kingdom of God without God's power (9:1).
- The author appears to hold a Calvinistic view of salvation.

## Conclusion

- We need to remember no manner of apologetic explanation can replace the need for faith.
- Our goal in apologetics should be faithfulness and gospel proclamation.
- I think the older apologists have more to teach us than the current generations.