

apr 14

the witness stand

"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

i can almost hear a courtroom calling out now: the defense calls "so-and-so" to the witness stand. the one called must come to the front, take the witness chair and swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. (that's a lot of truth.) at least that's what i have viewed from the courtrooms i watch on television. i've never actually witnessed a court case in person.

people are called to the witness stand because they have either seen something or know something that might affect the situation at hand. they are called to bear witness to something they have either seen or heard, or to relate their expert knowledge about a situation.

back in my working life, i was a supervision (or lead) and would often be called on to assist or instruct a customer with a problem. at one place i worked at, there was this one customer service lady. it was her job to handle all the details and progress of a job, but occasionally someone would call her with a technical question she could not answer. at those times she would forward their call over to me for more detailed instruction. it was my job to answer their questions as well as i could. (admittedly, i did not

know everything.)

the thing is, at those times she forwarded the call (problem) to me, having already known the question, she would come over to my desk and intently listen to my answer. she wanted to learn as much as she could so she might be able to have the needed knowledge to answer it next time; maybe not all the intricacies of the answer, but enough to be of help to someone perhaps. it was thinking about this lady and friend that inspired this daily. (we used to be lunch buddies also.)

i hope and pray she is still listening today. what i am speaking now is more truth than i ever spoke then. the world would tell you to fake it until you make it. God will tell you to believe it until you receive it. believe in "the glory which shall be revealed in us."
rom 8:18

i know all this is sounding like i am talking about me and my life, but there is a moral to the story. i do not seek to glorify me, but Jesus. scripture says, "study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman who needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." 2 tim 2:25 kjv

we are all called to be ready to give a defense for what we believe. we may not all have a miracle to proclaim, but we all have a testimony to share. it is not just your pastor's job; not just a preachers' or a teachers'; it is our job as well. we are to sponge from them so others may sponge from us. we may not have all the answers. none of us do. some know more

than others but that doesn't make them wiser or more capable; just more knowledgeable. knowledge is something we acquire and it takes time and study to acquire it. it takes a willingness to work for it. knowledge comes through study while wisdom does not come with age, but from God - at any age. "if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him." james 1:5

scripture admonishes us to strive; to put forth our best effort. i look around at our muslim friends and see such dedication in some of their hearts. misguided dedication, but dedication none the less. yes, many are more fervent in their desire to please God than few christians ever will be. believe me when i say, "their fear of and desire to serve God makes me jealous for my own brethren." jealous for those lacking a healthy fear and sense of reverence before God.

if you were called to the witness stand, be it in a courtroom or a meeting with only one other, would you have your defense ready for what you believe and why you believe it? turn it around the other way. if you were put on trial for being a christian, would there be enough evidence to get you convicted?

we must all prepare and speak for ourselves. we are under oath to tell the truth. do you know the truth? i cannot and will not speak for others, only myself. "for i am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek." rom 1:16 get busy living or get busy dying. Christ is

not coming for a lukewarm bride. "so then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth" rev 3:16 kjv terrifying words from our Lord proclaiming, "I never knew you."