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Journal of the International Society of Christian Apologetics

About the Journal

The Journal of the International Society of Christian Apologetics (ISSN Print 2572–9314, Online 2572–9322) is a peer-reviewed journal published annually with the support of the International Society of Christian Apologetics to foster scholarly discussion of ideas among evangelical scholars relevant to the defense of the Christian Faith. It includes articles from a wide variety of apologetically relevant fields, including philosophy, ethics, theology, biblical studies, history, and missions.

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“To foster scholarly discussion of ideas among evangelical scholars relevant to the defense of the historic Christian Faith in accordance with the Doctrinal Statement of the Society.”

The Society also provides encouragement and fellowship for scholars across the disciplines working to underscore the truth of Bible-based Christian belief, as they seek to strengthen the Church in its task of upholding the Saviorhood and Lordship of Jesus Christ.

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The Great Debate: Classical vs. Presuppositional Apologetics

J. Andrew Payne

It is a near-universally conceded truth among Christians that it is the duty of a believer to both proclaim and defend his faith. Most apologists cite 1 Peter 3:15 in support of this duty, that believers should, “Always be ready to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you.”¹ As it is well known, Peter here uses the word ἀπολογία, from which we derive the title of our task: apologetics. Apologists further will unite around three basic elements that apologetics must fulfill. The most obvious task of apologetics is to provide a *defense* (ἀπολογία) of the faith. A second element is that apologetics seeks to glorify God through a manifestation of our commitment to Him.² Finally, it is the task of Christian apologetics *to put forth a positive case for the truths of our faith.*

1. Unless otherwise stated, all scriptural quotations come from the HCSB translation.

2. This purpose can be found within the general context of 1 Peter 3, wherein Peter

Andrew Payne is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Philosophy of Religion at Southern Evangelical Seminary. He teaches ethics at Mitchell Community College and is the president of the Calvin Theology Club of Statesville.