

COURSE NOTES FOR  
BT561 APOLOGETICS

PART I: PHILOSOPHICAL APOLOGETICS

I. INTRODUCTION TO APOLOGETICS

A. DEFINITIONS OF APOLOGETICS

1. Dictionary Definitions of Relevant Terms

acc to Webster's Seventh New Collegiate Dictionary  
(Merriam, 1971), p 41:

**apology** - 1a: a formal justification: DEFENSE  
b: EXCUSE 2: an admission of error or discourtesy  
accompanied by an expression of regret 3: a poor  
substitute: MAKESHIFT

syn . . . APOLOGY now commonly applies to an  
expression of regret for a mistake or wrong with  
implied admission of guilt or fault; like APOLOGIA  
it may be used to imply not an admission of guilt  
or error but a desire to make clear the grounds  
for some belief or course of action . . .

**apologetics** - systematic argumentative discourse in  
defense esp. of the divine origin and authority of  
Christianity.

2. Meanings of the Relevant Greek Words

a. According to New Testament Usage  
(NASB rendering; context)

απολογεομαι -- verb, used 10 times in NT

- (1) Luke 12:11-12 (esp v 11)  
(speak in defense; believers to authorities)
- (2) Luke 21:12-15 (esp v 14) (same as (1))
- (3) Acts 19:21-38 (esp v 33)  
(make a defense; Jews to Ephesus mob)
- (4) Acts 24:1-21 (esp v 10)  
(make my defense; Paul to Felix)
- (5) Acts 25:1-11 (esp v 8)  
(said in defense; Paul to Festus)
- (6) Acts 25:22-26:1 (esp 26:1)  
(make his defense; Paul to Agrippa)
- (7) Acts 26:2  
(make my defense; Paul to Agrippa)
- (8) Acts 26:24 (same as (7))
- (9) Rom 2:14-15 (esp v 15)  
(defending them; thoughts of Gentiles)
- (10) 2 Cor 12:14-19 (esp v 19)  
(defending ourselves; Paul to Corinthians)