A ONE-PAGE SHEET

Apology

Plato

C. 399 BC · BENJAMIN JOWETT, 1892

In the volume The Last Days of Socrates

"*the unexamined life is not worth living*"

SOCRATES, APOLOGY · BENJAMIN JOWETT, 1892

A defense, not an apology

Socrates stands trial in Athens on charges of corrupting the young and not believing in the city's gods. He spends the speech examining the charges, not begging for pity.

A wisdom that knows its limit

The oracle at Delphi said no one was wiser than Socrates. He takes this to mean that he is wise only in not thinking he knows what he does not know, and he tests others who claim to know.

The unexamined life

He would rather keep questioning himself and his neighbors about virtue than keep silent in order to stay safe. For him, that daily examination is the greatest good of a man.

Obedience be

If acquittal requi
He would rather
than please the ju

A sign that t

Socrates speaks o
course of action.
trial, which he tal

Death is not

He does not clai
worse to do injus
a dishonest plea.

What a Christian reader should weigh

Socrates' courage and his love of truth are real, and the unexamined life is still a danger. Yet the God he names is the Delphic god and a private sign, not the God who s
defense; do not baptize it as if it were already the gospel.