

Why I Am A Christian (Seven Reasons)

- Sometimes as a **Christian** you might wonder why suffer the hassle, why go through the loss of friends and or the respect of family members just to follow **Someone** you never met, never knew personally, **Who** lived in bodily form almost two centuries ago and only have the writings of mere men long since deceased to rely on for information concerning **Him**. Is it really worth it? Why give up worldly pleasures for a moral life of servitude to what many people have come to believe as a fairy tale or hoax played on the gullible? And why would anyone want to spread a message that most people today aren't really interested in anyway? Even before **Jesus** came on the scene the prophet **Jeremiah** suffered for warning a rebellious **Israel** who mocked and threatened him because he did only what **God** inspired him to do. He first found **God's** "word was unto me a joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by Thy Name, O Lord God of hosts" (*Jer 15:16*). He also understood **God's** promise to protect him "against the whole land" (*1:18*) and therefore felt misled when told to warn **Judah** that their rebellion would lead them to become captives of **Babylon**. Notice what he said.

Jer 20:7 O LORD, Thou hast deceived me, and I was deceived: Thou art stronger than I, and hast prevailed: I am in derision daily, every one mocketh me. **8** For since I spake, I cried out, I cried violence and spoil; because the word of the LORD was made a reproach unto me, and a derision, daily. **9** Then I said, I will not make mention of Him, nor speak any more in His name. But *His word* was **in mine heart** (*Heb.3820- intellect [the very center of my being]*) as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing (*Heb.3557- to keep in*), and **I could not stay**. **10** For I heard the defaming of many, fear on every side. Report, *say they*, and we will report it. All my familiars watched for my halting (*Heb.6761- fall*), *saying*, Peradventure (*Heb.194- perhaps*) he will be enticed (*give in*), and we shall prevail against him, and we shall take our revenge on him. **11** **But the LORD is with me** as a mighty terrible One: therefore my persecutors shall stumble, and they shall not prevail: they shall be greatly ashamed; for they shall not prosper: *their* everlasting confusion shall never be forgotten.

- Through it all **God** fulfilled **His** word to protect **Jeremiah** as he cried out the message that was given him. As **Christians** we too are given orders, via the great commission, to warn others of the consequence of forsaking the truth. If and when we do, we, as **Jerimiah**, could risk being mocked and ridiculed. We could alienate our friends and family because of that holy **Name** by which we are called, but, it is for this reason, that **God** will never forsake **His** faithful children, and, among several other reasons, it is why I am a **Christian**...

...In Name

- Not all **Israelites** under the **Old Covenant** were faithful children of **God** and bore the reputation that **Jeremiah** bore. He was "called by Thy Name" (*Jer 15:16*) as we, centuries later, can assume such a privilege. And those **Jews** who were faithful to **Him** He gave special attention to.

Isa 62:2 And the Gentiles shall see thy (*faithful Israel*) righteousness, and all kings thy glory: and thou (*spiritual Israel*) shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the LORD shall name.

- Concerning those who forsook the God of their fathers, their recognition as God's people would they have to give up because of their unfaithfulness. The name that once designated them as a set-apart people would be changed and given to God's rightful heirs.

Isa 65:15 And ye (*rebellious Israel*) shall **leave your name** for a curse unto My chosen: for the Lord GOD shall slay thee, and call His servants by another name (*Christian*):

- Even before Israel became a reproach to the God of their fathers, He had already planned, through His providence, a Covenant where all true believers would become the true "Israel of God" (*Gal 6:16*).

Rom 2:25 For circumcision verily (*Gk.3303- in fact*) profiteth (*Gk.5623- to benefit*), if thou keep the law: but if thou be a breaker of the law, thy circumcision is made uncircumcision. 26 Therefore if the uncircumcision keep the righteousness of the law (*love God and love thy neighbor as yourself- Lk 10:27*), shall not his uncircumcision be counted for circumcision? 27 And shall not uncircumcision which is by nature, if it fulfil the law, judge thee, who by the letter and circumcision dost transgress the law? 28 For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither *is that* circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: 29 But he *is* a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision *is that* of the heart, in the spirit, *and* not in the letter; whose praise *is* not of men, but of God.

- Circumcision became part of the Old Covenant that evidenced the separation of the Israelites from the Gentile nations around them. The spiritual Jew, the one who has separated his inner man from the carnal nature of the world surrounding him, became such through obedience to Christ Who was separated from His Father for a short, excruciating period so that we in turn could become His brethren.

Heb 2:11 For both He that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause He is not ashamed to call them brethren, 12 Saying, I will declare Thy name unto My brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto Thee.

Col 2:11 In Whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: 12 Buried with Him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with Him through the faith of the operation of God, Who hath raised Him from the dead. 13 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath He quickened together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses; 14 Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to His cross; 15 And having spoiled principalities and powers, He made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

- Thus all people everywhere can become disciples of God through being buried with Jesus Christ in baptism.

Act 11:26 ... And the disciples were called Christians (*Gk.5546- follower of Christ*) first in Antioch. (*This is that new name by which God would call His people according to Isa 62:2.*)

Act 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

- Only through **Jesus** and the power of **His** name can we even think to enter that heavenly home that awaits **His** followers.

Col 3:24 Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.

...In Faith

- Faith: **Gk.4102**- persuasion, that is, credence; moral conviction (of religious truth), especially reliance upon **Christ** for salvation.

Heb 11:1 Now faith is the substance (**Gk.5287**- **assurance**: -confidence) of things hoped for (**Gk.1679**- **expected**), the evidence (**Gk.1650**- **proof, conviction**) of things not seen.

Rom 1:20 For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood **by the things that are made**, *even* His eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

“His perfections may be investigated, and comprehended by means of his works. They are the evidences submitted to our intellects, by which we may arrive at the true knowledge of God.”
Albert Barnes

Heb 11:3 Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.

“The doctrine taught is, that matter was not eternal; that the materials of the universe, as well as the arrangement, were formed by God, and that all this was done by a simple command.”
Albert Barnes

Gen 1:3 And God said,..

- But others needed further proof.

Joh 20:29 Jesus saith unto him, **Thomas, because thou hast seen Me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.**

- It would be difficult to **not** believe in **Someone** you've seen in person. **Jesus** was saying to **Thomas** that there would be those who would never meet **Him** in the flesh while living in this physical existence but would believe in **Him** anyway because of proof found through evidence of **God's** existence. And **His** existence is recorded in **His** word, the **Bible**.

...Because the Bible is the True and Complete Word of God

- Just as **Jeremiah** could not hold back from proclaiming the most powerful message to be decreed to those in that situation, how could any of **God's** people refrain from proclaiming “Christ and Him crucified” (**1 Cor 2:2**) today? The more we are committed to the understanding of **His** word, the more we are convicted of its truth. The more convicted of its truth the more assurance we have of the reward we will receive when **Jesus** comes to claim **His** own. We have been so blessed with the truth!

2Ti 3:16 All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 That the man (*Gk.444- human being: [thus men and women]*) of God may be perfect (*Gk.739- complete*), thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

- To be completely equipped means, among other things, that those who wish to be able to convince others of the necessity of salvation can be able to show, from scripture, the things necessary to obtain it. And those who have the hearts to want to know the truth that will set them free, are the ones who will understand the inspired word of God.

Joh 18:37 ... Every one that is of the truth heareth My voice.

- All three persons of the Godhead were involved in the dissemination of the inspired word. The Bible is not rooted in man's wisdom nor has it been concocted by even the most intelligent among mankind.

2Pe 1:20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. 21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake *as they were* moved by the Holy Ghost.

- And once that inspired word was completely delivered there was to be no need for further inspiration from God.

Jud 3 Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort *you* that ye should earnestly contend for **the** faith which was **once delivered** unto the saints.

...The Message of Salvation is Simple

1Co 14:33 For God is not *the author* of confusion, but of peace,..

2Co 11:3 But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the **simplicity** that is in Christ.

- God made it to be so simple that a child could understand. But man has made it so difficult because it seems we think salvation should be more complicated. Not according to God!

1Co 1:19 For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. 20 Where *is* the wise? where *is* the scribe? where *is* the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?

1Co 1:26 For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, *are called*:

- Have you ever tried to convince an intelligent person, who thinks they have all the answers about life, that he or she needs Jesus? Not that intelligence is always a hindrance either but in many ways a person who has a carnal understanding of things can't accept with what ease a person can be saved.

1Co 2:14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.

- But the message is really very simple.

Mar 16:16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

- And once we have made the decision to follow the simple plan of salvation we need to continue feeding on the truth that lies therein.

Joh 8:31 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on Him, **If ye continue in My word, then are ye My disciples indeed;** 32 **And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.**

...Because I Reverence (*fear*) God

Psa 111:9 He sent redemption unto His people: He hath commanded His covenant forever: Holy and Reverend *is* His name. 10 **The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom:** a good understanding have all they that do *His commandments*: His praise endureth forever.

- If the beginning of wisdom is to fear God, what can the end of it be?

1Pe 1:9 Receiving the end of your faith, *even* the salvation of *your* souls.

- And what about those who don't fear God?

1Pe 4:17 For the time *is come* that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if *it* first *begin* at us, what shall the end *be* of them that obey not the gospel of God? 18 And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?

Mat 10:28 ... fear Him which is able to **destroy both soul and body in Hell.**

- Even if it means we must suffer for the fear we have toward God, we know He will not forget His children who are faithful to Him.

1Pe 4:19 Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls *to Him* in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.

...Because of Christ's Sacrifice

Heb 11:24 By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; 25 Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; 26 Esteeming (*Gk.2233- considering*) the **reproach** (*Gk.3860 from 3679- to defame*) of **Christ** greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.

- Even Moses, who had yet to meet Christ, understood that sacrificing the temporal fame and fortune of this world paled in comparison to the wealth in the world to come.

Jer 20:13 Sing unto the LORD, praise ye the LORD: for He hath delivered the soul of the poor from the hand of evildoers.

- How did Christ deliver us from Hell were it not for His sacrifice on the cross? No animal sacrifice could have done what God had to do to redeem mankind back to Himself. He had to give of Himself, of His own righteous nature, in order to do so.

Php 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 7 But made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was **made in the likeness of men:** 8 And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

- Only God could satisfy His requirement of the perfect sacrifice to remove sin. Only His eternal nature was able to redeem man once for all time from his propensity to sin through the blood of His own Son.

Mat 3:17 And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is My beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased.

- But first, Jesus had to prove His worth, not to God but to man, that He was “the Lamb of God, Who taketh away the sin of the world” (Jn 1:29).

Luk 4:1 And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, 2 Being forty days tempted of the devil...

- After those forty days of testing in the wilderness Jesus was prepared for the task given to Him by His Father. His focus was set on redeeming man from the power of Satan.

Luk 9:51 And it came to pass, when the time was come that He should be received up, He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem,

- He knew what He had to do.

Isa 50:6 I gave My back to the smiters, and My cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not My face from shame and spitting.

- Can you picture Jesus in this scene. Tortured to the point of having the very hair of His precious face torn away in locks. And then to be presented to a hate filled mob that would call out for His crucifixion.

Joh 19:1 Then Pilate therefore took Jesus, and scourged (*Gk.3146- flogged*) Him. 2 And the soldiers platted a crown of thorns, and put *it* on His head, and they put on Him a purple robe, 3 And said, Hail, King of the Jews! and they smote Him with their hands. 4 Pilate therefore went forth again, and saith unto them, Behold, I bring Him forth to you, that ye may know that I find no fault in Him. 5 Then came Jesus forth, wearing the crown of thorns, and the purple robe. And *Pilate* saith unto them, Behold the man! 6 When the chief priests therefore and officers **saw** Him, they cried out, saying, Crucify *Him*, crucify *Him*. Pilate saith unto them, Take ye Him, and crucify *Him*: for I find no fault in Him.

- Wearing the crown and the royal colored robe only further angered the chief priests who would not accept Jesus as their true Christ and King. Their demands would be obliged.

Mar 15:33 And when the sixth hour was come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. 34 And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani? which is, being interpreted, My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?

 ...Because Jesus Is Coming Back!

Joh 14:1 Let not your heart be troubled; ye believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 In My Father's house are many mansions: if *it were not so*, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, *there ye may be also*.

1Th 4:13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring (*Gk.71- lead away*) with Him. 15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent (*Gk.5348- precede*) them which are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17 Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. 18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

2Pe 3:1 This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in *both* which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance: 2 That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour: 3 Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, 4 And saying, Where is the promise of His coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as *they were* from the beginning of the creation. 5 For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: 6 Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: 7 But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. 8 But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day *is* with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. 10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. 11 *Seeing then that* all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of *persons* ought ye to be in *all* holy conversation (*Gk.391- behavior*) and godliness, 12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? 13 Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. 14 Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of Him in peace, without spot, and blameless. 15 And account *that* the longsuffering of our Lord *is* salvation...

- God's longsuffering will someday, sooner or later, come to an end. Will you, at that time, be able in all boldness and in truth say, simply, "I am a Christian"? If not...

#1. Haven't you heard?

#2. Don't you believe?

Rom 10:14 How then shall they call on Him **in Whom they have not believed?** and how shall they believe in Him **of Whom they have not heard?** and how shall they hear without a preacher?

#3. Haven't you repented?

Luk 15:7 I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.

#4. Haven't you confessed Jesus as the Christ?

Mat 10:32 Whosoever therefore shall confess Me before men, him will I confess also before My Father Who is in Heaven. 33 But whosoever shall deny Me before men, him will I also deny before My Father which is in Heaven.

#5. Haven't your sins been washed away?

Mar 16:16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

#6. If you've done all these things, haven't you remained faithful?

Joh 15:10 If ye **keep** My commandments, ye shall **abide** in My love; **even as** I have kept My Father's commandments, and abide in His love.

#7. Aren't you growing?

Eph 4:15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into Him in all things, Who is the Head, *even* Christ:

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