

## Why I Am A Christian

No. 31

### Introduction.

- I. The apostle Peter gave this exhortation to Christians. (1 Pet. 3:15). Peter admonished us to be ready to give the reasons for the hope that is in us.
- II. If someone were to come up to you today and ask, "Why are you a Christian?" What would be your reply? This Lord's day I am going to give the answer I would give to this question.

I. **I Believe Jesus Christ Is The Son of God** - I am a Christian because I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. I can confidently say with Peter, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." (Matt. 16:16). Someone might ask, "Why do you believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God? What evidence do you have?"

A. I believe that Jesus is the Son of God because **fulfilled the prophecies made hundreds of years before His birth.**

1. It was prophesied that He would be of the **seed of Abraham.** (Gen. 12:3).

**GEN 12:3 And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed. "**

2. That He would be of **the tribe of Judah.** (Gen. 49:10).

**GEN 49:10 "The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, Until Shiloh comes, And to him {shall be} the obedience of the peoples.**

3. That He would be of **the lineage of David.** (Psa. 132:11).

**PSA 132:11 The \Lord\ has sworn to David, A truth from which He will not turn back; "Of the fruit of your body I will set upon your throne.**

4. That He would be **born of a virgin.** (Isa. 7:14).

**ISA 7:14 "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.**

5. That He would be **born in Bethlehem.** (Mic. 5:2).

**MIC 5:2 "But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, {Too} little to be among the clans of Judah, From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, From the days of eternity."**

6. That He would **perform miracles.** (Isa. 35:5, 6).

**ISA 35:5 Then the eyes of the blind will be opened, And the ears of the deaf will be unstopped.**

**ISA 35:6 Then the lame will leap like a deer, And the tongue of the dumb will shout for joy. For waters will break forth in the wilderness And streams in the Arabah.**

7. That He would be **sinless and buried in the tomb of a rich man.** (Isa. 53:9).

**ISA 53:9 His grave was assigned with wicked men, Yet He was with a rich man in His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor was there any deceit in His mouth.**

8. That He would be **betrayed for 30 pieces of silver.** (Zech. 11:12, 13).

**ZEC 11:12 And I said to them, "If it is good in your sight, give {me} my wages; but if not, never mind!" So they weighed out thirty {shekels} of silver as my wages.**

**ZEC 11:13 Then the \Lord\ said to me, "Throw it to the potter, {that} magnificent price at which I was valued by them." So I took the thirty {shekels} of silver and threw them to the potter in the house of the \Lord\.**

9. That he could be **crucified.** (Psa. 22:16).

**PSA 22:16 For dogs have surrounded me; A band of evildoers has encompassed me; They pierced my hands and my feet.**

10. That He would **die for the sins of man.** (Isa. 53:4-6).

**ISA 53:4 Surely our griefs He Himself bore, And our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted.**

**ISA 53:5 But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being {fell} upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed.**

**ISA 53:6 All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the \Lord\ has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him.**

11. That He would be **raised from the dead.** (Psa. 16:10).

**PSA 16:10 For Thou wilt not abandon my soul to Sheol; Neither wilt Thou allow Thy Holy One to undergo decay.**

12. That he would **ascend into heaven to reign on his glorious throne.** (Dan. 7:13, 14).

**DAN 7:13 "I kept looking in the night visions, And behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, And He came up to the Ancient of Days And was presented before Him.**

**DAN 7:14 "And to Him was given dominion, Glory and a kingdom, That all the peoples, nations, and {men of every} language Might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion Which will not pass away; And His kingdom is one Which will not be destroyed.**

13. Christ minutely fulfilled each of these prophecies and the numerous others that were given concerning his birth, life, work, death and resurrection. Christ did not fail to fulfill even one prophecy.

B. I believe Jesus is the Son of God because of **His miraculous power.** (Matt. 8:1-3; 14:14-21; Lk. 7:11-17). These and the other miracles Christ performed were recorded to produce faith in Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God. (Jn. 20:30, 31).

C. I believe Jesus is the Son of God because of the **testimony of the Father.** (Matt. 3:16, 17; 17:5).

**For these reasons and others that could be given I believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.**

II. **Christ Has Won My Heart And Influenced Me To Be A Christian** - I am a Christian because Christ has won my heart and influence me to be a Christian.

A. Jesus left the glories of heaven and came to this earth and died on the cross for my sins and the sins of the world. He suffered the punishment I deserve because of sin. He was wounded for my transgressions. He was bruised for my iniquities.

B. I cannot help but love and follow One who gave His life for me. I love because He first loved me.

III. **I Want Peace Of Mind** - I am a Christian because I want peace of mind.

A. I do not want the anxiety and fear that plagues the man of the world.

B. The Christian has peace, serenity, that Paul says “surpasses human understanding.” He can sing, “Peace, Perfect Peace in This Dark World Of Sin.”

1. He has peace of mind because the blood of Jesus has **washed away all of his past sins**. These sins were washed away when he became a Christian. Not only does the Christian have the forgiveness of his past sins, but he has forgiveness of his daily sins. (1 Jn. 1:9).
2. The Christian has peace of mind because he knows God **oversees the events of his life**. God takes all the circumstances of his life, good or bad, and makes them work together for good. (Rom. 8:28).
3. The Christian also has peace of mind because he **will not suffer the torment** God has stored up for the wicked. He will escape the torment of hell by virtue of his obedience to Jesus Christ. This is not so with the man of the world. He must live in fear of the judgment. He must live in constant terror of hell.

IV. **I Want Purpose In Life** - I am a Christian because I want purpose in life.

A. In spite of the many achievements of modern man he often lives a life devoid of real purpose. He often feels his existence is meaningless.

B. The Christian does not feel this despair for he has a definite purpose in life.

1. He finds purpose in life in that he is **striving to save others**. He knows he has the most important mission in the world to accomplish - to save the souls of men - to lead men from darkness to light.
2. The Christian also finds purpose in life in that he **strives to make the world a better place** to live. Jesus taught the Christian to be “the salt of earth” and “the light of the world.” He is on the earth to preserve it from decay and season it with his goodness.
  - a. One time a **gospel preacher appeared before a judge** on behalf of a wayward boy. In the course of this conversation the judge asked him, “Why are you spending your life as a gospel preacher and why is it that you are so concerned in getting people to become Christians?” The preacher replied that “When the time comes that Christian people are not found upon this earth, this world will have no reason to exist.”
  - b. I fully agree with this statement. I submit to you that the world needs scientific technology, but this is not its greatest need. Its greatest need is for men and women, boys and girls to commit themselves to Christ that souls may be led to Christ and this world might be a better and more harmonious place to live.

V. **I Want A Constant Companion** I am a Christian because I want a constant companion.

A. Sometime ago I read of a **preacher who had a conversation with an elderly lady** who could no longer attend church services. She was expressing her lament at not being able to assemble for worship with those whom she had known and loved through the years. She spoke of the great loneliness in her life. The preacher reminded her that she was never alone, for Christ was always with her. A few days later the elderly lady called the preacher to tell him how much this reminder had meant to her. His comforting words had helped her to overcome her loneliness.

B. All Christians can be comforted with the fact that Christ is their constant companion. (Matt. 28:20; Heb. 13:5).

## VI. **I Do Want To Fear Death** - I am a Christian because I do not want to fear death.

A. The man of the world has a great and terrible fear of death. He shudders as the very thought of it enters his mind. Even some of the most hardened infidels have become emotional, hysterical as they approached death's door.

### B. **Statements of Unbelievers**

1. **Sir Thomas Scott**, on his deathbed, said: "Until this moment I thought there was neither a God or hell. Now I know and feel that there are both, and I am doomed to perdition by the just judgment of the Almighty."
2. **M.F. Rich** cried out: I would rather lie on a stove and broil for a million years than go into eternity with the eternal horrors that hang over my soul! I have given my immortality for gold; and its weight sinks me into an endless, hopeless, helpless hell."
3. **Thomas Paine** said: "I would give worlds if I had them, that 'The Age of Reason' had never been published. O Lord, help me! Christ help me! O God, what have done to suffer so much? But there is no God! But if there should be, what will become of me hereafter? Send even a child to stay with me, for it is hell to be alone. If ever the devil had an agent, I have been one."
4. **Hobbes** said: "I say again, if I had the whole world to dispose of, I would give it to live one day. I am about to take a leap into the dark."

### C. In contrast to the man of the world the **Christian does not need to fear death.**

1. He can approach death with a smile on his face and unwavering confidence in hear heart. (Psa. 23:4; Phil. 1:21).
2. During the 19<sup>th</sup> century a preacher by the name of **T.B. Larimore lived**. Just a few hours before his death he wrote these words of trust and comfort to a friend.

"My faith has never been stronger; my hope has never been brighter; my head never clearer; my heart has never been calmer; my life has never been purer. I love all; I hate none. My love for some lifts my souls into the realm of the sublime. I am willing to die today; I am willing to love a thousand years to tell the old story of Jesus and his love."

3. The Christian can approach the hour of death with this great, calm assurance.
  - a. He can make such statements as these for he knows he will be victorious over the grave. (Jn. 11:25).
  - b. One time there was **a little girl who lived near a cemetery**. In order to reach her home from the store she had to pass through the cemetery. She would sometimes pass through the cemetery at dusk. Someone asked her, "Aren't you afraid to go through the cemetery?" "Oh, no", she replied, "I'm not afraid, for my home is just beyond." The Christian does not need to fear the cemetery. He does not need to fear the grave. He knows his home is just beyond. He can shout. (1 Cor. 15:55-57).

## VII. **I Want A Home In Heaven** - I am a Christian because I want a home in heaven.

A. There is nothing I want more than to spend eternity in the mansion Christ has prepared. (Jn. 14:2,3; Rev. 21:4).

B. "There's no disappoint in heaven,  
No weariness, sorrow or gain;  
No hearts that are bleeding and broken,  
No song with a minor refrain.  
The clouds of our earthly horizon  
Will never appear in the sky,  
For all be sunshine and gladness,  
With never a tear nor a sign.

"We'll never pay rent for our mansion,  
The taxes will never come due;  
Our garments will never grow threadbare,  
But always be fadeless and new.  
We'll never be hungry or thirsty,  
Nor languish in poverty there,  
For all the rich bounties of heaven  
His sanctified children will share.

"There'll never be crepe on the doorknob,  
No funeral train in the sky;  
No graves on the hillside of glory,  
For there we shall never more die.  
The old will be young there forever,  
Transformed in a moment of time;  
Immortal we'll stand in his likeness,  
The stars and sun to outshine.

"I bound for that beautiful city  
My Lord has prepared for His own;  
Where are the redeemed of all ages  
Sing 'Glory' round the while throne;  
Sometimes I grow homesick for heaven,  
And the glories that I shall behold;  
What joy it will be when my Savior I see,  
In that beautiful city of gold!"  
F.M. Lehman

## Conclusion.

- I. **Years ago, as a young preacher**, I preached for the West Douglas church of Christ in Wichita, Kansas. In our congregation there was an older gentleman near 90 years of age. Though his health and eyesight were failing rapidly, he attended services. He had a great love for the Lord and the Bible. He did not have a fear to death and the beyond because of Christ. He did something that I have never encountered before. Before his death, he handed me his funeral service that he had pecked out on his old typewriter. In the notes he gave me, he did not praise himself, but he praised Christ. He spoke of the hope that he and other Christians have for victory over the grave because of Christ. He requested that the song, "I have a mansion just over the hilltop" be sung at his funeral. To this day every time I sing that hymn I not only thank about the glorious mansion the Christian has prepared for him, but I think of the great confidence and hope that this old Christian gentleman had and each of us can have toward death.
- II. **Years ago when Christ died upon the cross**, Calvary seemed to mean only one thing, "The enemy has won. Jesus has been defeated. There is no hope." The hearts of those who loved him broke in sorrow. But on Sunday morning the radiant and glorious message rang out, "Jesus defeated death. He has arisen. He lives."
- III. Yes, Jesus lives! He lives to save and bless those who will surrender their lives to Him. Won't you surrender your life to Jesus! Put your trust in Christ, turn from your sins, confess Christ as God's Son, and be baptized for the remission of sins and come forth from the watery grave a Christian, and live all your days for the Savior. It will be the greatest and best decision you have ever made. Come now to Jesus as we stand and sing!

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