

Why Am I A Christian? (Apologetic Series)

I want to start an apologetic article series that will appear regularly in this bulletin answering the question “*Why am I a Christian?*”, and I hope that such a series will prove helpful to you in figuring out the answer to that question for yourself, while also providing a Christian evidences resource to share with friends and skeptics alike.

The answers I’m going to provide over the length of this series are simply solutions I’ve had to discover for myself. They’re the answers I provide others with whom I’m studying. They’re going to be colored by my own unique biases and fallible understandings. It’ll be the same for you, but even so, the most important question for you to answer for yourself is: Why are YOU a Christian?

Why am I a Christian? (First, because God granted me sight.)

(Second, because God raised Jesus from the dead.)

(Third, because absolute truth makes the most sense of the world.)

Fourth, because the Bible is true.

I’m a Christian because the Bible has been one of the most enlightening powers in my life. There is simply no book like it. Of course I’m prepared to give a few reasons for its validity but can I first say that if you’ve never read it that you totally should because you’re missing out on the experience of a life time (or maybe I should say eternity)? I can posit justification after justification for the Bible’s uniqueness among other sacred texts but as they say “the proof is in the pudding.” Reading God’s revealed word will change your life, pure and simple. I once heard that Charles Spurgeon (and, curiously enough, Augustine of Hippo, and probably Abraham Lincoln according to the internets) said the bible is like a lion: you don’t need to defend it, just let it go. The internal testimony of the scriptures is elucidating in itself without outward endorsements. Just read it.

That being said, here are a few reasons why I trust the book:

- **It’s is primarily a book of history.** Not historical fiction, not meditation or philosophy, but primarily a narrative of things that have a solid place on the timeline. C.S. Lewis was a professor of medieval literature at Oxford. His job dealt primarily with the ability to identify fable from fact. Here’s what he says about the Bible: “*I have been reading poems, romances, vision literature, legends, and myths all my life. I know what they are like. I know none of them are like this. Of this [gospel] text there are only two possible views. Either this is reportage...or else, some unknown [ancient] writer...without known predecessors or successors, suddenly anticipated the whole technique of modern novelistic, realistic narrative.*” What C.S. Lewis is saying is that the NT reads like a news report. And that fictional stories that attempt to be as realistic as possible is a more modern invention – they didn’t exist back then. I mean, just read **Luke 1.1-4**. Does anything about that text strike you as contrived?
- **It answers questions.** It has the answers to life's most important questions: Who is God? What worldview makes sense of the world? Why are we here? Where are we going? What's wrong with me? All of the questions that make life worth living have

answers found in God's book. Now, granted, I understand just because it provides answers does not in and of itself mean the answers are true – but they oddly harmonize to give the greatest, most comprehensive, sense to the experience of mankind. The Bible just makes sense of the world.

- **It's composition is nothing short of miraculous.** Let's look at the facts. The Bible is a library of 66 books, 39 in the old testament with 27 in the new. It was written by over 40 different authors (e.g., Moses, Joshua, David, etc.), from different walks of life (e.g., shepherds, governors, scribes, prophets, kings, etc.), over a period of 1500 years beginning with Moses covering the inception of history and ending with John's book, Revelation, that covers the future hope for the church at the end of the first century.

Now let's do a thought experiment. You get a group of 20 people in one room. You lay a sheet of paper on the table and tell each participant to write one sentence explaining their opinion on abortion before passing the sheet to the next person. You circle the entire room. Once finished, you lift up the sheet and read it. Do you think the 20 opinions scrawled on the paper is going to be coherent, harmonious, reflecting no internal disparity or disagreement whatsoever? No way. And yet we have these 40 authors over drastically different time periods all writing on the hottest and debated issues of the day – and, guess what? They harmonize! That's weird.

- **It has manuscript evidence.** We take for granted the historical importance and validity of so many ancient books such as Homer's Iliad or Shakespeare's plays and yet with equal grantedness discount the Bible. Did you know there are zero surviving manuscripts of any of Shakespeare's 37 plays (and they were written in 17th century!)? Did you know we have 643 manuscripts of Homer's Iliad? But the Bible, this book is the best preserved of all ancient writings weighing in at a whopping 6000 manuscripts for the New Testament alone. Surely this must mean something. (For a helpful supplement, consider reading Andreas Köstenberger's Truth Matters.)

Admittedly, I'm not entirely sure if it's possible for me to definitively prove that the Bible is God's word to man today. But the preceding proofs provide at least enough impetus to search the Scriptures for ourselves. That's all we can really ask in the end: just read the Bible for yourself. Come and see.