

# GOOD REASONS FOR BEING A CHRISTIAN

## INTRODUCTION

Paul's work as an apostle and preacher was to "persuade" people to do the right thing in life. Cf Acts 26:26-28; 2 Cor. 5:10-11. Basically, there are 3 reasons for being a Christian:: (1) Because you are now LIVING; (2) Because you will not always BE among the LIVING, and: (3) Because will someday AGAIN be among the LIVING.

## DISCUSSION

### **I. 1<sup>st</sup>, you need to be a Christian because are are NOW ALIVE.**

- A. Being alive, you still have opportunity to accept and obey the gospel to become a Christian, and to glorify God. 1Pet. 4:16
1. Christ's teachings offer a recognition of SIN in your life, as one who can be and is tempted TO engage in sin. Rom. 3:23; Jas. 1;14-15
  2. Christ's teachings offer a better life than a life spent in sin and rebellion to God. John 10;10; Gal. 2:20
  3. Christ's teachings help all of us to remember that we are more than flesh and bones, but we have an eternal soul that will outlive our allotted time on this earth. Job 32:8; Heb. 12:9
- B. IF the Bible is right, that there **is** an eternal God, and that we have an eternal soul, it behooves us to take advantage of what it teaches, to be ready for the future existence of the soul after death. 2 Cor. 6:2

### **II. 2<sup>nd</sup>, you need to be a Christian because you will SOMEDAY DIE.**

- A. Everyone WILL die, with the exception of those who live long enough to be present when Jesus comes at the end of time. Heb. 9:27; cf 1 Cor. 15:50-52
1. Billions of people have already died on this earth, and billions now living will someday close their eyes in sleep.
    - a. Physical life is uncertain, as to when it shall end. Prov. 27:1
    - b. We have no assurance that we shall all have a full life of 70 ears. Psa. 90:10
  2. Some will die a natural death due to age and disease, and others will die a tragic death by accident or murder.
- B. The point is, you need to be a Christian NOW, for you may die tomorrow, or unexpectedly before another opportunity is presented to obey God.

### **III. 3<sup>rd</sup>, you need to be a Christian because you shall then LIVE AGAIN.**

- A. At death, your soul continues in God's care, as it will be in a place called "Hades."
1. Every soul will be placed in Hades in a part that is best suited for the preparation already made for eternity while we are here.
    - a. For the faithful Christian here, will be a place of rest and comfort. Rev. 14:13
    - b. For the unbeliever and non-Christian, it will be a place of unrest and torment. Luke 16:19-23
  2. Every soul will remain IN this unseen realm until the end of the world and the day of coming judgment.
  3. No one has the privilege of dying like an animal and just ceasing to exist, for we are all made in the likeness of God, as Spirit, and that spirit in us will always exist, whether it will be a few hours after death, or a million years as we now look at "time."

- B. in the day of judgment, every soul will be reunited with his or her resurrected body that previously housed the soul. 1 Cor. 15:36-44 (Study carefully)
1. Sentence will be passed by the Lord for an enjoyment of heaven, or separation from God into fiery torment and eternal darkness.
  2. There will be no second chance to return to earth and make preparation if it not already made.
  3. Paul said AFTER death we will face the final judgment. Heb. 9:27; cf Eccl. 12:13-14
  4. Each person must give account of self FOR our lives lived. 2 Cor. 5:10

**CONCLUSION**

- I. So, what are the advantages of being a Christian?
  - A. 1<sup>st</sup>, a life of righteousness will make us happier while here, as we follow the rule-book of life—the BIBLE.
  - B. 2<sup>nd</sup>, we will have the “hope” of being in heaven, which motivates us to live right with God while we are here. Tit. 1:2; 1 Pet. 1:3-5; Gal. 6;7-8
  - C. 3<sup>rd</sup>, we can have the blessing of helping others enjoy life, that they too can learn the way of God and eternal life.
- II. If you are not ready to leave this life, won't you make preparation today, but confessing faith in Jesus as the Son of God, repenting of sins, and then be baptized into Christ; or if you have departed from the right way, won't you come back in repentance and prayer—as we stand together and sing the invitation song?