

REASONS FOR BEING A CHRISTIAN

INTRODUCTION

- I. Paul's work as a preacher was to "persuade."
 - A. In view of the coming judgment, he persuaded men. 2 Cor. 5:10,11
 - B. He tried to persuade a king to become a Christian. Acts 26:24-28
- II. Basically, there are 2 reasons for being a Christian--(1) Because you may **die**, and (2) Because you may **live**.

DISCUSSION

I. First, to the LOST we say, "You need to be a Christian because you may DIE."

- A. Undoubtedly, everyone (Christian or not) WILL die sometime, for none can escape death except those who are alive when Jesus returns at the end of time. Heb. 9:27; 1 Cor. 15:50-52
 1. Physical life is uncertain—from day to day. Jas. 4:14
 2. We have absolutely no assurance that we shall have a full lifetime of 70 years or more.
 - a. Because mother or grandfather lived to be a hundred, does not mean we will.
 - b. Some lives end because of sickness or accident—even in infancy, pre-teen years, teen years on in old age.
 - c. Some young people do not take seriously the reality of death, and live as if they will never die.
- B. The point is, you need to be a Christian NOW, for you may die tonight, tomorrow, or unexpectedly, or before another opportunity presents itself to become a Christian.
 1. Should this happen, there will be no more opportunities to become a Christian.
 2. All hope will be gone, and you will be lost forever and ever. 2 Cor. 6:2
 3. I know of one man who became a Christian, but drifted away, and knowing he needed to return to God, took ill suddenly and died, and his obituary simply stated, "He was identified with the church of Christ."
 4. Another man put off becoming a Christian, and decided to be baptized, and sent for the preacher, but died before the preacher arrived to baptize him.

II. 2nd, to the lost we say, "You need to be a Christian because you may LIVE."

- A. We all need to be Christians to avoid Satan and hell, but there are many positive reasons for being Christians, as we **live** upon this earth. John 10:10
- B. What are the advantages and blessings of being Christians?
 1. 1st, there is the blessing of a SERVING LIFE, as we not only serve God, but fellow Christians, but our neighbors, friends, and even our enemies. Matt. 4:10; Luke 22:26; John 12:26.
 - a. The noted atheist, Robert Ingersoll, even said, "The way to be happy is to make other people happy."
 - b. Don't you feel better about yourself when you help others, or do something for them when they are in need? Acts 20:35; Gal. 6:9-10
 2. 2nd, there is the blessing of EXTENDING FORGIVENESS to others.
 - a. Jesus is a model of forgiving others, as He offered it to others.
 - 1) At the cross, he prayed that his murderers might be forgiven. Luke 23:34

- 2) It was not granted immediately, but His death made it possible for them to **be** forgiven when they learned how to do it. Acts 2:38
- b. As Christians, forgiving others, we are able to enjoy GOD’S forgiveness when we sin. Matt. 6:12, 14
- c. Harboring grudges and bitterness only makes one worse for it. Eph. 4:31-32
- 3. 3rd, there is the blessing of being RIGHT WITH GOD.
 - a. The sinful world participates in drunkenness and adultery for the pleasure they THINK they are getting from it, but they are miserable in their sins and doomed eternally for it.
 - b. I knew one former Christian who found a different female sex-partner for every night of the week, but died a lonely man in his soft chair at home, with no hope of heaven.
- 4. 4th, there is the blessing of CONTENTMENT.
 - a. Christians are more content with fewer material things, than non-Christians are. 1 Tim. 6:6-10
 - b. Christians are more content with troubles and persecutions because **of** faith as Christians, with the promise that tomorrow and eternity will be better. Phil. 3:9-14; 4:4-7, 11-13; 2 Cor. 4:17-18
- 5. 5th, there is the assurance that Christian NEVER DIE in the sense that people die physically, because we die in hopes of an eternal life that awaits them. John 8:51
 - a. As Lazarus died physically, he was going to live again. John 11:24-26
 - b. The Christian who departs this life is going to a place of comfort to await the resurrection to eternal life, which hope the non-Christian does not have, and does not **really** die.

CONCLUSION

- I. A Christian has the “best of both worlds”--enjoying the best things this life has to offer, and the **only** good thing eternity offers—a life with God in heaven.
- II. Won’t you become a Christian right now?

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