

When You Need Answers NOW, not Later!

25

Reasons To Believe

God is enthroned above the circle of the earth



1 Peter 3:15
*...always being
prepared to make a
defense to anyone
who asks you for a
reason for the hope
that is in you*

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Introduction

Hello reader. There could be many reasons why you were given this booklet, not the least of which is to help you understand why Christianity is true. Within the pages of this booklet you will be able to unearth some excellent nuggets of truth that can foster a deeper study on your own. For instance, did you know the list facts below were written up to 3000 years before they were discovered by scientists? Surely, the Bible, written over 1,600 year period, and compiled 2000 years ago shows itself to contain no scientific error.

- 1) **Isaiah 40:22** – Tells us the earth is round and from above its inhabitants look like grasshoppers.
- 2) **Job 26:7** – Gravity is the force that allows the earth to “Hang on nothing.”
- 3) **Ecclesiastes 1:6** – A description of the circulation of wind in our atmosphere.
- 4) **Psalms 8:8** – The currents of the ocean and the paths of the sea were discovered in 1855 (Matthew Maury).
- 5) **Ecclesiastes 1:7** and **Isaiah 55:10** – Tell us of the earth’s hydraulic cycle. The waters flow into the sea but it is never full as they evaporate and return again as rain.
- 6) **Psalms 102:25-27** and **Romans 8:21** – The Second Law of Thermodynamics was revealed first in the Bible, “things corrupt over time.”

These are just a few examples of scientific truths written in the Scriptures long before they were ever "discovered" by scientists. Our God is an amazing God and He has not failed to provide relevant information for all ages if we will just take the time to look into His *Αγίας Γραφής* or Holy Word. There is no doubt, the Bible is God’s perfect written revelation of Himself. It is literally a, “God-Breathed” collection of books.

First of all, you should know this: No prophecy of Scripture comes from one’s own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by the will of man; instead, men spoke from God as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. (2 Peter 1:20-21 (HCSB)

1 – The Bible

The Struggle:

There are so many other religions and they all have their own beliefs. How can I know the Bible is true?

The Answer:

The Bible simply means “The Book.” It is a compilation of what is called the Holy Scriptures. This inspired collection of *66 different books* was written over a period of 1600 years by *40 different authors*, on *3 different continents*, most of whom did not know each other. Most of these men were actual eyewitnesses to the recorded events found in its sacred pages. From Moses who wrote Genesis to Deuteronomy and finishing with John and Revelation, men were moved by God who directed their handwriting recording precisely what He wanted to say to His people for all generations.

How God’s word came together is a miracle in itself due to the vastly different periods of time in which these men wrote. Apart from Joshua, who wrote the Book of Joshua and was Moses’ right hand man, the Apostles of Jesus Christ were practically the only ones who knew each other as friends and brothers.

It was these and a few other disciples that Jesus chose to write the New Testament. Even more amazing is the fact that everything in Scripture pointed ultimately to Jesus—from cover to cover and prophecy to prophecy. The Bible even foretold where Jesus would be born (**Micah 5:2**), the time of His birth (**Daniel 9:24-27**), and that He would be born of a virgin. The Old Testament also accurately predicts His Ministry (**Isaiah 53**), His death and pain on the Cross (**Psalms 22**), His resurrection (**Psalms 49:15**), His future Reign as King (**Isaiah 9:6**), His victory over sin (**Genesis 3:15**), and the Eternal Kingdom of Heaven (**Revelation 21:5**) all codified in the Bible! For decades, modern archaeologists have been continuously confirming people, places, and events recorded in the Bible.¹

¹ (visit: www.biblicalarchaeology.org)

2 – The Bible and Everyday Life

The Struggle:

The bible is so outdated! It could not possibly apply to my life!

The Answer:

Bible-believing Christians trust every word of every phrase of every verse of the Word of God – the Bible. The world undervalues this, by often using language which came DIRECTLY out of Scripture without knowing! Amazingly, there are over 200 phrases or sayings which people all over the world use in everyday discussions...and they have absolutely no idea their origin is the Bible! Here are just a select few of them and where they can be found in Scripture:

The apple of His eye	Psalms 17:8
A good old age	Genesis 15:15
A still small voice	1 Kings 19:12
The pride of life	1 John 2:16
From strength to strength	Psalms 84:7
A drop in the bucket	Isaiah 40:15
The salt of the earth	Matthew 5:13
The signs of the times	Matthew 16:3
The powers that be	Romans 13:1
The fashion of this world	1 Corinthians 7:31
Decently and in order	1 Corinthians 14:40
A thorn in the flesh	2 Corinthians 12:7
A labor of love	1 Thessalonians 1:3
Thou are the man (You da man!)	2 Samuel 12:7
The handwriting on the wall	Daniel 5:5
Stand in awe	Ps. 4:4; 33:8; 119:161
Clear as crystal	Revelation 21:1; 11
The fat of the land	Genesis 45:18
All things to all men	1 Cor. 9:22 1 Tim. 6:10

These are excellent conversation starters or lead-ins to reach others for Christ!

3 – God Our Creator

The Struggle:

Why do I need to believe in God? My friends say there is no God. They seem to be intelligent enough.

The Answer:

If there is one thing you can base your opinion on that is always sure it should be on what is constant—something that never changes. Our creation is like that and the God who formed it wanted us to know it (see **Romans 1:20**). For instance:

- 1) The Sun will always rise in the east and set in the west (**Genesis 8:22; Ecclesiastes 1:5**)
- 2) The ocean will always stay put within its defined limits and overflow boundaries (**Job 38:8-11**)
- 3) The planets always rotate around the sun on a designed orbit (**Job 38:31; Col. 1:16-17**) – just like electrons around the nucleus of an atom; (cp. “Solar System of the Atom”)
- 4) Gravity is a downward pull, never an upward thrust
- 5) Rainbows appear when light shines through moisture and prisms (**Gen. 9:13-14; Ezekiel 1:28**)

The world around us teaches that there is an intelligent Creator. Nothing could have come into being with such perfect order unless there was a designer behind it. Here are just a few names the Bible declares the characteristics of our divine designer:

- 1) Elohim – the All Powerful Creator (**Gen. 1:1-3, 2:4-5; Ps. 68:8**)
- 2) El Elyon – the Most High God (**Ps. 78:35; Dan. 4:34**)
- 3) El Olam – The Everlasting God (**Ps. 90:1; Is. 40:28; Rom. 1:20**)
- 4) El Shaddai – The All Sufficient God (**Gen. 17:1-3; Ps. 90:2**)
- 5) Jehovah – The Great I Am (**Ex. 6:2-4, 34:5-7; John 18:8**)
- 6) Jehovah- Jireh – The God who Provides (**Ps. 23; Rom. 8:2**)

When Jesus came into the world He was given the Name Emmanuel, “God with us,” and that has never changed!

4 – The Trinity of God

The Struggle:

Isn't the teaching of the Trinity absurd? Come on... one God in three? When I read the Bible I see three Gods not one.

The Answer:

The Bible teaches us that God is “one” but reveals Himself in “three” distinct persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit otherwise known as the Trinity. Of note is when the Lord first speaks of Himself, He does so in plural terms. Three times in Genesis the Lord uses the pronoun “Us” when referring to Himself (see **Genesis 1:26, 3:22, and 11:7**). This is the Lord’s confirmation of His triune nature, not the faulty thinking of mankind. Also, God revealed Himself to Moses as the divine, “I Am.” Jesus used this name to identify Himself before the Roman soldiers who came to arrest Him the night before the crucifixion (**John 18:5**). When He spoke this name the soldiers fell to the ground before Him. Also pay attention to **John 14:10-11** where Jesus refers to His oneness with the Father who was working miracles to validate His supernaturally divine presence in and through Jesus.

The Bible identifies God as:

- 1) The Father (see **1 Peter 1:2; John 1:18**)
- 2) The Son (see **Hebrews 1:8; John 1:14**)
- 3) The Holy Spirit (see **Acts 5:3-4; John 16:7-15**)

The Trinity can also be seen with reference to things such as:

- 1) **Time** – past, present, and future
 - 2) **Man in God’s image** – body, soul, and spirit
 - 3) **Creation** – space, matter, and time
 - 4) **Space** – length, width, and height
- The Father is God—the first Person of the Trinity
 - The Son is God—the second Person of the Trinity
 - The Holy Spirit is God—the third Person of the Trinity

1 God in 3 distinct persons.

5 – The Father Jehovah (YHWH)

The Struggle:

I have a problem believing there is only one God that Christians refer to as Jehovah or Jesus. Other religions have many gods.

The Answer:

Monotheism is the belief in one God. Polytheism is the belief in many gods (little “g”). The Bible takes it for granted that we have one creator God who is from everlasting. *"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! (Deuteronomy 6:4).* What Christians believe and worship is found only in the Bible, God’s revelation of Himself to us.

Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God. – (Psalms 90:2)

Of old You laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands. – (Psalms 102:25)

God declared Himself to be the *One and Only* God to worship in the first of the Ten Commandments, *"You shall have no other gods before Me."* – (Exodus 20:3)

Because a god (little “g”) can be anything a person adores we are commanded to never put other things ahead of Him in worship. But Satan, the enemy of God and man, labors to turn mankind away from this truth by casting distractions in our path. The Apostle Paul tells us that behind every idol is a demon (see **1 Cor. 10:19-20**). There is only one true God. All others are either demonic representations or idols of our own choosing.

Logic tells us there is one God; the Bible tells us he is from everlasting. *No other book written among mankind has been validated as true except the Bible. It declares, “The Lord is One.”*

6 – The Son Jesus

The Struggle:

I have a problem believing that Jesus is the only way to heaven.

The Answer:

No other Man in the history of the world has ever been written about more than Jesus. The reason for this is really threefold:

- 1) In His lifetime He fulfilled over 100 Old Testament prophecies. Fulfilling just eight of them has a probability factor of 10^{17} or in 100,000,000,000,000,000.²
- 2) No one has ever single handedly raised the dead, made the lame walk, healed eyesight and hearing, cleansed the lepers, and preached to the poor (**Mt. 11:3-6**).
- 3) He is the only one to ever rise from the dead by His own power and authority promising life to all who believe

How else could He be explained? (*From Christian Life NT*)

- The apostle John refers to Him as God (**John 1:1**)
- God the Father refers to Him as God (**Hebrews 1:8**)
- He claimed to be God (**John 17:5**)
- He was worshipped as God (**Matthew 14:33**)
- He forgave sin (**Mark 2:5-11**). Only God can do that.
- He is called the Creator (**Colossians 1:16**)
- He is the sustainer of all life (**Hebrews 1:3**)
- He walked upon the blue waters of Galilee, commanded the winds and the waves, healed the sick, raised the dead, gave sight to the blind, hearing to the deaf, cast out demons, made the lame to walk, turned water into wine, and fed five thousand with the lunch of a lad.

No one could do all the things listed above unless they were God. True life is only found in Christ. He is our Advocate, Mediator, and Savior.

² Dr. Peter Stoner "Science Speaks" accessed March 24th 2014 Available http://sciencespeaks.dstoner.net/Christ_of_Prophecy.html#c9

7 – The Holy Spirit

The Struggle:

I do not understand why the Holy Spirit is so important.

The Answer:

The Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Trinity. He is very real and very much God. When a person believes upon Jesus He comes to dwell within them constantly assuring us that God is always present with us (**John 14:8**). No other religion in the world can promise this. Before Jesus ascended to heaven He made a promise that He would send the Holy Spirit as a Helper and comforter, even as a guarantee that we would have Eternal Life (Acts 1:4-5; 2 Cor. 1:22, 5:5; Eph. 1:13-14). Here are just some reasons He comes to us.

- 1) To make us aware of God's presence (**Rom. 8:16**)
- 2) To convict all people of sin, righteousness, and judgment (**John 16:8**)
- 3) To remind us of the truth Jesus taught (**John 14:26**)
- 4) To comfort us in times of trouble (**Acts 9:31**)
- 5) To lead us in the will of God (**John 16:13**)
- 6) To empower us to serve God with boldness (**Acts 4:31**)

Those who do not know Jesus as Savior often chide Christians because of our belief in God. They wonder how people can love a God they do not see. It is a valid argument; for none of us would love an unseen God if it were not for the important work of the Holy Spirit. He illuminates us (**1 Cor. 2:10-12**), He empowers us (**Acts 1:8**), He seals us for eternal life (**Eph. 1:13-14**), and He leads us (**Gal. 5:16-18**).

The Bible says, “We love Him because He first loved us” (**1 John 4:19**). His convicting and convicting work opens our eyes to the truth we have sinned against God. If we respond to Him and confess our sins to God in prayer then turn from them to believe upon Jesus, He then gives us a new life—literally we become a new creation in Christ (**2 Cor. 5:17**). The Holy Spirit is God's agent of change. He helps and strengthens us to live a life pleasing to God.

8 – The Crucifixion

The Struggle:

I've been told there is no proof of the crucifixion.

The Answer:

Despite ancient texts, records, paintings, and oral accounts, critics argue there was no solid proof that crucifixion was really performed. One such record stated that after the famous slave uprising led by Spartacus was crushed in 71 BC, for example, an estimated 6,000 rebels were crucified along a highway leading to the capital as an illustration of Roman power.* Still critics were unconvinced—that is until 2012. In a stone ossuary (coffin) the first proof of a person being crucified was found. Again the Bible is proven to be true in its content. Below photo is of a heel bone with a nail piercing it.³



Israel's National Museum

Crucifixion was regarded as the most horrible form of death. Because of the curse pronounced upon it found in **Deuteronomy 21:23**, Jewish people abhorred it. Crucifixion was reserved for the vilest of offenders and it is one reason we can say that Jesus took the penalty for our sin.

³ Matti Friedman "In a stone box, the only trace of crucifixion", The Times of Israel, accessed March 24th 2014 Available <http://www.timesofisrael.com/in-a-stone-box-a-rare-trace-of-crucifixion/#ixzz2wwHuAnN4>

9 – Faith

The Struggle:

Do I have to check my brains at the door to be a Christian?

The Answer:

The world says that Christianity is a belief system for the simple-minded bent on following an unknown Nazarene from long ago. But that's not how the former legal affairs correspondent for the Chicago Tribune and former atheist, Lee Strobel sees it. Earlier in his life set he out on a journey to disprove the Bible, but what Strobel discovered about God and the Bible not only led Him to Salvation through Jesus Christ, but induced him to become one of the biggest defenders of the faith in America. Isaiah the prophet reasonably wrote in **Isaiah 1:18a** *"come let us reason together as men, though your sins be scarlet (dark, dirty and in need of cleansing), I will make them as white as snow."* Does this sound unreasonable? No, because Christianity is only for a thinking man where you have the completely free choice to believe or not. Other religions deny and belittle the mind, seeking to *meditate* it into nothingness. Christianity affirms our mental faculties as a gift from God; our *meditation* is to be on his word day and night (**Psalms 1:2**)... in other words, thinking.

The pagan Roman Empire commissioned Josephus, who was not a believer, to write the History of the Jews. He confirmed not just the history of the Old Testament but recorded the death of the Savior—Jesus. The Babylonian Talmud is another extra-biblical source as is Roman Senator/Historian Tacitus and Roman General/Governor Pliny.

Our Lord is a true gentleman. He will not force anybody to believe in Him against his/her will. But in **John 14:11** He does invite us to see the evidence for ourselves. The Bereans were a group of Christians from Northern Greece who heard the preaching of the Gospel from the Apostle Paul and others. The Bible says they searched the Scriptures daily (**Acts 17:11**) to make sure what these men were saying was true. Christianity is not only reasonable, but logical and verifiable where the free choice is completely yours to believe.

10 – The Witnesses of the Resurrection

The Struggle:

Jesus cannot be proven to have risen from the dead.

The Answer:

If Jesus did arise from the dead there must be witnesses.⁴

- 1) After His resurrection He appeared first to Mary Magdalene (**John 20:11-18**)
- 2) He appeared to the women returning from the tomb (**Matthew 28:5-10**)
- 3) Then He appeared to Peter (**Luke 24:34**)
- 4) To the Emmaus disciples (**Luke 24:13-31**)
- 5) To the apostles, Thomas not present (**Luke 24:36-43**)
- 6) Again to the apostles, Thomas present (**John 20:24-29**)
- 7) To the seven by the Sea of Tiberius (**John 21:1-23**)
- 8) To over five hundred brethren (**1 Corinthians 15:6**)
- 9) He was seen by James (**1 Corinthians 15:7**)
- 10) He was seen again by the eleven apostles (**Matthew 28:16-20; Acts 1:3-12**)
- 11) He was seen by Stephen, the first martyr (**Acts 7:55**)
- 12) He was seen by Paul on the road going toward Damascus Syria (**Acts 9:3-6; 1 Corinthians 15:8**)

First Century Witness:

It's of utmost importance that the four Gospels and The book of Acts which describe the resurrected Christ were written in the first century. They needed to be close the events they describe so they could repudiate the Gnostic fakes of later centuries—books that people like Dan Brown like to quote. Since the true gospel accounts were circulated in writing during the lifetime of the people and places found in the historical record, it gave them ample opportunity to denounce them if they weren't true. They could say, "Hey, that's not how it happened." But, none of these hundreds of people did. *In fact, many of them submitted to torture and death rather than recant.* It's a fact that when an improbable story is widely published during the lifetime of the people described in it, its very survival affirms its truth.

⁴ Christian Life New Testament

11 – The Evidence of the Resurrection

The Struggle:

I need physical evidence of the Resurrection before I can believe.

The Answer: (After Jesus was arisen)

- 1) The disciples lost all fear and became courageous and bold. They also rejoiced in persecution (**Acts 5:40-42**).
- 2) Sunday worship was established on the first day of the week, Resurrection day. (**Acts 20:7**).
- 3) The tomb was empty—What happened to His body? Wouldn't producing a body end Christianity? (**Luke 24:24**)
- 4) Inside the empty tomb the disciples found his clothing, (**John 20:1-10**). If his body was stolen as critics say, (see **Matt. 28:12-13**), why would the clothes be there? Surely the thieves would not strip a 3 day old dead body before they took it.
- 5) The story of the Roman guards asleep on duty was a lie. They would have been killed, but instead they all lived. (**Mt. 28:13**)
- 6) 1st Century Roman Historian Tacitus referred to his contemporaries as saying, "The vulgar [morally crude, undeveloped, coarse, gross, offensive] call them Christians." He also wrote of the Crucifixion saying, "Chrestus, the founder of the sect, was put to death in Judea by the procurator, Pontius Pilate." (Annals 15, 44)
- 7) The Roman General Pliny wrote, "On a certain day of the week they gathered together, before the rising of the sun, and sang a hymn to Christ as to a God. At a later hour they gathered again, and took a simple meal together, and took an oath together, not to commit any crime, but to abstain from all crimes, as theft, robbery, adultery." (Epistles X 96)

Forty days after His resurrection Jesus ascended into heaven. **By doing so He defeated death.** Jesus said in **Matt. 16:18**, "*The gates of hades will not prevail against His church.*" Because He is risen, His ministry today is that of a High Priest, for He never ceases to make continual intercession for all believers. (see **Heb. 7:25**) Truly He loves all believers with a love that is everlasting!

12 – Evolution vs. God

The Struggle:

Why do I need to believe in God? Hasn't science proven that there is no God? Evolution seems to be the answer.

The Answer:

There are bits of evolution that can be believed such as a white dog having pups and creating a black puppy. Within its kind many types of species exist. But to jump from one kind such as a dog kind to a cat kind is impossible. Their DNA is incompatible. And so it is with all animal kinds. Thus a man cannot evolve from a fish kind to an ape kind and to a human kind. Evolution as a science is based on THEORY and ASSUMPTION, not fact. Those who adhere to it make educated guesses and hope they are right. But they cannot prove they are right even though they will tell you they are. Evolution questions Genesis of the Bible in its quest to destroy the accountability of mankind to God. It seeks to prove that we were not created by God therefore we are not accountable to Him. This was the same lie Satan told Eve in the Garden of Eden where He questioned God's instructions to her and what the consequences would be. Evolution is a counterfeit of truth.

Problems with evolution:

- 1) The missing links are still missing
- 2) The oldest fossils of each animal kind are fully formed.
Where are the transitional ones?
- 3) Living things never come from non-living things
- 4) All of creation shows a master designer
- 5) Human language is inexplicable to an evolutionist⁵
- 6) The planetary orbits circle the sun similar to the electrons circling the nucleus of an atom
- 7) Creation is finished; it is not still evolving

You can rest assured that what the Bible teaches is indeed true.

⁵ "How does the Bible explain the origin of different races?" Creation Studies Institute, accessed March 24th 2014 Available <http://www.creationstudies.org/Education/races.html> Para -6

13 – Historical Application

The Struggle:

I have been told the Bible is just not true?

The Answer:

We believe the histories of Scripture are true because of their self-criticism. No other ancient people wrote in such a way, even to the extent of their greatest kings admitting to shameful crimes then begging God to be forgiven. This honesty stands out in stark contrast to the ancient literary work of every other nation on earth.

We also believe the prophecies of Scripture are truly God's word to men because of their self-destructive nature. What other nation has ever pronounced judgment on itself, not just on all their enemies?

We also believe that the laws of Scripture are inspired by God and not man. For example, through instituted laws, other ancient societies sought to institute a political system that ensured the rich and powerful stay rich and powerful. This was contrary to Judeo-Christian laws which were practical and moral; they even included well-established safeguards to protect the humblest of society. No other ancient legal system went to such lengths as to ensure that rights and privileges for all servants, slaves, women, and foreigners, living within their national boundaries, were upheld!

Furthermore, consider the inconsistency of the Biblical critics. The very same ones we hear criticizing a pre-Mosaic biblical text for not being verifiable by outside written or archaeological sources will turn around and quote text from an Egyptian inscription as though it was the last word in what was truly happening at that time. Excuse me? Should we believe published propaganda from a people well-known to be prone to exaggeration and self-glorification as fact, with NO verification needed? No we shouldn't. Yet within the confines of their double-standards they assume the starkly honest Jewish writings to be false unless another verified source can back them up. That is inconsistent and academically dishonest.

14 – Bible Characters

The Struggle:

I have been told the people of the Old Testament are fictitious.

The Answer:

No one of any credible academic reputation will dispute that Jesus, the Apostles, the Early Church Fathers, or any of the historians of the first century AD were real. Yet for some reason the unlearned continue to propagate that most people in the Old Testament really did not exist. Why is this? Just recently BAR (*Biblical Archaeological Review*) published a list of 50 people of the Bible that archaeology confirmed to have existed!⁶ And it is just a sampling.

Jesus our Lord also bore witness of many names, accounts, and places in the Old Testament record. For instance, He spoke of Jonah and the Whale, (**Mt. 12:39-40**), Noah and the Flood, (**Mt. 24:37**), Abraham, (**Luke 13:28**), David, (**Matt. 12:3**), Zechariah the prophet, (**Matt. 23:35**), Moses, (**Luke 5:14**), Elijah, (**Matt. 17:3**), and many, many others from the Old Testament.

Think about this: The Genesis account of Noah tells us that he is the ancestor of all families on the earth today. If Noah's story were true then every society that preserves legends of their ancient past, should also, within their histories, have some concept of a Great Flood. Guess what? They do! The same accounting of a great flood is found in many societies of the world—even on the other side of the world in Native American legends. A good example is [*The Gilgamesh Epic*](#) or the recently discovered [*cuneiform tablet*](#) found in the British Museum.

The more you encounter this parallel of stories in such widely disparate people, the more likely it becomes that there is an ultimate truth behind them all. You can be sure the Bible's rendering of places and names is very reliable.

⁶ 50 People in the bible Confirmed Archaeologically" Accessed March 24th 2014, Available <http://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/daily/people-cultures-in-the-bible/people-in-the-bible/50-people-in-the-bible-confirmed-archaeologically/>

15 – Why So Many Religions?

The Struggle:

Christianity is just one of many other religions.

The Answer:

The Apostle Paul tells us that behind every idol are demons with one main goal, destroy Christianity. (see **1 Corinthians 10:19-20**)

- 1) They spawn lies about Jesus' resurrection
- 2) They inspire other religious books to confuse the truth
- 3) They start other religions to cloud the true one
- 4) They perform counterfeit miracles to oppose the truth

They validate these lies through the use of evil spiritual forces or demons. These imps perform paranormal actions connected to idols that work to deceive the populations. Many religions were formed in this way.

Other false religions were founded by a person, and not by the Author of Life himself. But what became of those people who began these philosophies followed by so many today? They're all dead. ***Only Christ is alive, and only the living can give life.*** To believe anything different is about as intelligent as getting financial advice from a street person, or health care from a drug addict. Am I so foolish as to go to the dead to find the way to life?

While there have been legends and myths of other people being raised from the dead throughout history, (research Ancient Mythology), only one has ever been able to raise himself from the dead, that was the Christ Jesus, Son of God himself. The greatest, most tragic crime of all human history is that of men slaying their own Creator; since then, via the resurrection, He has become the greatest and only real hope humanity has and will ever have.

Satan is a liar - Jesus said the following about him: *The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy (John 10:10a).*

16 – Extra-Biblical Texts

The Struggle:

The Bible has been copied so many times it is unreliable.

The Answer:

"But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase."

(Daniel 12:4) In this amazing passage the Lord tells Daniel the prophet, in 535 BC, to seal up the words of his prophetic writings till the time of the end when knowledge would increase. Now, 2500 years later no one in their right mind would ever refute that. Note the following is just some of the proofs found listed among the many entries listed at the website noted.

- 1) 80 percent of all the scientists who have ever lived are alive right now.
- 2) Every minute they add 2,000 pages to man's scientific knowledge.
- 3) The material they produce every 24 hours would take one person 5 years to read.
- 4) It's commonly estimated that a weekday edition of any major newspaper has more information than the average person living in the 17th century would have come across in a lifetime.⁷

This increase in knowledge has not gone without refuting the critics of the Biblical texts. In 1947 a young Bedouin shepherd boy discovered the greatest cache of Biblical texts ever recorded: The Dead Sea Scrolls. Did they confirm the Bibles written record? You bet. Every book except Esther was found including the complete book of Isaiah dating to the 3rd century BC. ...any differences? A very minute few; with none that are text altering. The Bible we have today is sure!!

Other ancient confirmations: [Tel El Amarna letters](#), The [Ebla Tablets](#), and [Library of Ashurbanipal](#) found in ancient Nineveh.

⁷ "Increased Human Knowledge and Science" accessed March 24th 2014 Available <http://powerpointparadise.com/endworld/signs/knowledge.htm>

17 – Christianity Doesn't Seem Fair

The Struggle:

My friends tell me I am missing out. What does the Bible say?

The Answer:

Your friends are completely wrong and could pay some heavy consequences for their actions in these areas. Every action has an equal and opposite reaction. Moreover, there are both Spiritual and physical consequences to any behavior which God did not ordain. Apart from it being illegal for anyone under 21 years of age to drink alcohol, it is the recipe for disaster.

The number of deaths among young people due to binge drinking, resulting in DUI's and accidents is increasing exponentially. Sexual misconduct is equally destructive. The Bible warns against fornication (sex with any person outside of marriage) and other deviant sexual practices, such as homosexuality. There is good reason behind God's ordaining of sexual relations within the confines of marriage and only between a man and a woman. Incidences of Human Pap Virus (HPV), AIDS (HIV virus) Cervical Cancer, and other sexually transmitted diseases (STD's) are increasing by leaps and bounds as morals and societal norms are casually cast by the wayside causing all caution to be thrown to the wind.

Condoms cannot protect you. RU 486, the abortion pill also cannot protect you. The results of this kind of personal immorality are teenage pregnancies, the end of potentially good career paths, and if you claim to be a Christian a break in your fellowship with God.

Abortion is not the answer as it leads to a higher incidence of breast cancer and psychological problems. So again, what are you really missing out on? Believers must remember our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit; we are exhorted to treat it as such (**1 Cor. 6:9, 19-20; Rom. 1:18-31**). God's desire is always for our good, *"Your thoughts toward us cannot be recounted to You in order; If I would declare and speak of them, They are more than can be numbered"* (**Psalms 40:5**).

18 – True Christianity

The Struggle:

The Christians I know are condescending and judgmental.

The Answer:

The Bible states the following concerning true Christians:

“Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place. For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. To the one we are the aroma of death leading to death, and to the other the aroma of life leading to life (2 Corinthians 2:14-16b). Jesus was teaching us that true Christianity emanating from the life of a believer ascends to the Father above as a beautiful sweet smelling fragrance while it simultaneously induces a life altering response within those around us. To the unbelieving the Christ-life either entices some to become believers or it may drive them away. The believing person is drawn toward life eternal, while the unbelieving repels toward death. Jesus said, *“If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you”* (John 15:18-19). In the eyes of the Lord the world’s response to believers could be indicative of their heart condition. Maybe they do not have a relationship to him.

To be fair, there are many in the world masquerading as Christians who are not really Christians at all. Jesus said, *“Not all who say Lord, Lord will enter the Kingdom of Heaven” (Matt. 7:21).* What He meant is just because someone says they are Christian does not necessarily mean they are. Love is what characterizes a true Christian’s character (**1 John 4:7**).

All of us should first examine our own motives before passing any unfair judgment on others; for nothing is hidden from God. He sees all of our works and knows our heart condition better than we. If you do run into a Christian who is unloving ask them if they are a Christian.

19 – Dealing with Sin

The Struggle:

My friends tell me just being “good” is “good enough” for God.

The Answer:

The gospel message begins with, “...*Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,*” (1 Cor. 15:3b). We need to realize that just thinking we’re good enough to get into God’s heaven is sinful of itself? It denies the presence and penalty of sin and the very reason Jesus was crucified. The world will continue to think they are “good” and therefore, God must honor their “good” life as an entry to His heaven; but believing that is equal to believing I do not need Jesus to forgive my sin, for I am “good” enough on my own! How prideful can one be? As a created being, do we have the right to tell our Creator what is good enough to get into His heaven? Don’t fool yourself; saying something like that is equal to believing that Jesus did not need to die for our sins. Jesus tackled this question when he was met by a “Good” person who also hoped his “goodness” was “good enough for God.” Here is the text: “*Now a certain ruler asked Him, saying, “Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” So Jesus said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God.”*” (Luke 18:18-19)

What we can learn is this person was seeking eternal life based upon his good behavior. His behavior, as the rest of the text reveals, was based upon just keeping the law. There is nothing wrong with living a good life—being a “good” person. But if we base our eternal hope on just being a good person we are missing the point of why Jesus came. He did not come to offer eternal life to people who knew they were good but those who knew they were not good enough. Jesus taught that without God in our lives we could never be good enough to enter His heaven.

Then He said to them all, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. (Luke 9:23) (see also Mark 2:17)

20 – Understanding Prayer

The Struggle:

Why should I pray? God will not hear me. I am nothing to Him.

The Answer:

Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. (Isaiah 59:1)

The worldly minded would love to tell you that God does not really care for you so why pray? I remember the first time I ever prayed to God. Like everyone else I was used to speaking to someone I could see or touch—someone I knew could hear me if I spoke loud enough. But to speak into the air seemed very awkward to me. But when I realized that God is Spirit (**John 4:24**) I was able to put those fears to rest. If He is Spirit then I did not need to see Him to know He was listening. That said, realize what your friends tell you is simply not true. God sees and watches every move we make; and your value to Him? Jesus thought you were worth dying for or He would not have left the glories of Heaven to do so (**Phil. 2:7-8**).

The Bible declares that when we believe upon Jesus asking Him to forgive us of our sin, that the Holy Spirit comes to dwell within us (**John 14:17**). This indwelling of the Holy Spirit, “God in us” is God’s declaration of our worth to Him. *Would a Holy God come to make His home in your heart if He did not love and care about you?* No, He wouldn’t. Love may be the greatest reason the Lord comes to make our heart His home but it also is God’s guarantee that He hears our prayers!! If we speak to Him in sincerity, honesty, and with a humble desire to be pure in heart He will always hear our prayers.

But there is a time when God will not hear our prayers. That is when we do not come to Him with a sincere and humble heart. Moreover, we cannot expect God to hear and answer prayer or to rescue us from our enemies when we stubbornly persist in sin. Pray with sincerity.

Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. (Matt. 11:28-29)

21 – *Eternity*

The Struggle:

I just don't see how God could love me. He seems so far away.

The Answer:

Do you remember when you were a kid and summer felt like it went on forever? Well, eternity is a lot longer! In the beginning, God created humanity to live forever, but **sin** changed it all. Moses said in Psalm 90:10 that the days of our lives are 70 years and if we're strong enough and God blesses, we may make it to 80 years of age.

Life is fleeting and whether it is believed or not, the fact remains that every human who ever lived will spend **Eternity** somewhere. There are many strange beliefs about what happens to a person after they die. They range from *annihilation* to *soul sleep* to *purgatory* to *reincarnation*. Every single one of these are either creations of the human the imagination or Satan himself; not from the Word of God. It is these few brief years we are given on planet Earth that actually determine ones eternal destination and there is no second chance.

Eternity is decided by the choices you make now. Jesus tells of the rich man who was in torment in hell (**Luke 16:19-31**); He was conscious of who he was, what he had done, and whom he had left behind. This eternally tormented soul requested that one be sent back to earth to warn his brothers in the hope they could avoid coming to this place, where God says, "the worm never dies." In an amazing conversation, he was told this is impossible as God has already shown mankind how they should live. **Ecclesiastes 3:11** says, "He (God) has put eternity into man's heart," yet we still cannot grasp what He is doing from beginning to end. The reason the Lord Jesus Christ came to earth in the form of the God-man, was to explain in simplicity His love and His plan for us; a plan that was to save man from hell. The eternity He placed within our hearts speaks of making choices. The only logical choice is to choose Jesus or face eternal separation from Him.

Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him. (Psalms 2:12)

22 – Hell

The Struggle:

If God is love, how can He send someone to Hell?

The Answer:

First of all you are correct; God is love? His love is so deep that He can take the vilest of sinners and create in them a clean heart. It's His nature to do so. But God is also just. A world without justice is chaos at best; it cannot stand. Imagine living in a world where every murderer, rapist, and thief was let loose to roam the streets. Would you feel safe at night? I don't think so. Neither would you feel safe in daylight. A person would not be able to go out in public unless they were fully armed for protection. Sin against God and others deserves a just compensation. And that is just what God showed us in Genesis.

Sin first appeared in Heaven when one of God's created beings – Lucifer (Satan) – rebelled against Him (see **Isaiah 14:12-17**). Shortly after this he was found lurking in the Garden of Eden where God had placed our first parents Adam and Eve. Both were as innocent as a newborn baby, but not for long. Soon Satan met Eve and he twisted God's words tempting her to rebel. From that time forward sin became rampant even to the point of God regretting that He created man (**Gen. 6:4-6**). To justly bring an end to the upheaval of massive sin and chaos God brought the flood of Noah to cleanse the earth. But do we ever learn from mistakes? Not hardly. A few generations later (**Gen. 11**) mankind had again turned from God at Babel where they built a mighty Ziggurat (tower) to worship Satan's minions. Again God's justice reigned. This time He confused the languages of the people and scattered them to various parts of the earth. That action was God's way of saving the people from bringing about the just judgment that sin required; and it would work until the latter days when technology would again bring everyone together as one.

The Bible tells us that Hell was created for Satan and the fallen angels (**Matt. 25:41**). **It was never created for mankind.** But when we choose to rebel against a loving God whose desire is to reward our love toward Him He has to be the just judge. In a world of free-will and free choice Hell simply the consequence for sin.

23 – Those Who Never Heard of Jesus

The Struggle:

Surely a loving God would not send those who never heard the gospel to eternal punishment?

The Answer:

That is true, He wouldn't. But the honest answer is God has revealed Himself to all people in every location under the sun. Be careful of believing the lie that some people do not know there is a God. It is simply not true. However, it is a hard truth for many to grasp. The argument usually follows the line of "innocent natives" in a jungle somewhere who have never met a missionary or received a gospel tract. The honest answer is – there is no such thing as an innocent native! In every culture there is some form of spiritism, complete with a healer or witchdoctor as they are often called. The truth is, God has graciously revealed himself through His creation. Not only so, but all of these tribes have inherited oral histories about spiritual events in their past. They know there is a God. The Heavens declare it!

The Apostle Paul answers this question quite well. *"For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse" (Romans 1:19-20 ESV).* Later he confines all under sin by stating, *"For ALL have sinned and fallen short of the Glory of God" (Rom. 3:23).*

God has written the same instruction on their hearts that He has on ours. In their own conscious they too know the difference between right and wrong—good and evil. Their conscious mind either accuses them or excuses them (see **Rom. 2:15**). The problem is that most of the unsaved portion of the world has suppressed that truth in unrighteousness choosing instead to create gods of their own choosing to worship (see **Rom. 1:18**). This they do even while God has given them solid evidence of His existence. This evidence of God is referred to as *General Revelation* and all of us have it. This suppressing of known truth is nothing more ignoring the moral code within them and the God who placed it there. Sin will always be sin.

24 – The Second Coming of Christ

The Struggle:

I am not sure Jesus will return

The Answer:

The Bible teaches the Second Coming of Christ is imminent; meaning, it could happen at any time. Jesus told us we were to always be watching and excitedly awaiting His return:

“And you yourselves be like men who wait for their master, when he will return from the wedding, that when he comes and knocks they may open to him immediately. Blessed are those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching. Assuredly, I say to you that he will gird himself and have them sit down to eat, and will come and serve them. ...Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.” (Luke 12:36-37, 40) (see also John 14:1-2, Acts 1:11)

Jesus’ words shout loudly to us in these last days because of the final signs appearing that indicate His soon return. The first and foremost is Israel returning to her homeland in 1947; after nearly 1900 years of wandering with no home(see **Ezekiel 37**).In Scripture that event is symbolically referred to by Jesus as “the Budding of the Fig tree” (**Luke 29:29-32**). *In likening Israel to a fig tree, Jesus taught that the generation that witnesses Israel become a nation would also witness His return. We are that generation.* Other signs to note: signs in the heavens, the sun, the moon, and the stars; in the weather, huge monster storms, earthquakes, and major wars that would all increase in intensity. He called these birth-pangs. John also told us of a world government, a cashless society, and technology that would be used to identify people and make financial transactions. Paul spoke of False Messiahs, immoral behavior, and hatred of sound Bible teaching are as part of the end-time scenario. And Peter warned us that scoffers would abound mocking God and those that believe in Jesus. What’s more is all of the Old Testament prophets described in stark detail the days in which we live! Very soon the Lord will call His Church home! Are you ready to meet Him? For more information: (see **Matt. 24, Luke 21, 2 Tim. 3, 2 Thess. 2, Isaiah 24**, and all of **Revelation**)

25 – Now, About Jesus’ Return

The Struggle:

All my life people have said that Christ is coming but they are wrong.

The Answer:

A common mantra among skeptics of the Bible is, “for 2000 years, Christians have warned that Jesus is coming back; yet every time they have been wrong!” They have a good point. So what’s God waiting on? The quick answer is one word, “Salvation”—that is, the saving of those without God from eternal punishment. Consider this, before Jesus ascended into heaven He commanded that every single one of those who believe in Him were to go forth and spread the Good News of the Kingdom of Heaven. This responsibility He gave to all Christians. It is why you see and hear the gospel preached in every corner of the world. The bottom line is God loves people and He intensely desires to give them eternal life in Heaven.

So God is patiently waiting for this commission to be carried out. He is waiting for that last person that will to say, “Lord Jesus, I do believe that You died for my sins to give me eternal life. Please forgive me and give me the strength to overcome. I give my life to you now, amen” It is not that He is not coming, for surely He is; but it is His patient and loving nature to give us more time to change our minds and make the choice to believe. We are in the last days of the Age of Grace. Scripture tells us ***“The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance”*** (2 Peter 3:9). We must not take His tarrying as anything more than His patient Grace and Love. God wants no one person to go to hell. But soon those doors of patience will close and the time will come when it is too late to make the choice to believe upon Jesus. The verse below illustrates the pain we inflict and actions of the Lord when we totally reject Him.

“Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you desolate!” (Matt. 23:37-38)
(See also 2 Peter 3:3-10, Rev. 22:12; 1 Cor. 3:9-15; & John 3:16-21)

Final Words

We would be amiss if we did not let you know about the importance of a Relationship to Christ. Please continue to read about how you can become part of God's family.

An alarming finding in a recent past stated that almost 57% of young people, who call themselves Christians, believe there are other ways to Heaven than through Jesus Christ. This is simply not true. Jesus, God and Creator of all things, said the following "I am THE Way, THE Truth, and THE Life. No one comes to the Father but through Me" (John 14:6). This is a fact and in essence the case is closed.

There is no mountain where God is sitting that boasts of more ways than one to get there. There is only one way to get to His Heaven. That way is a straight and narrow passage—one which Jesus Himself taught about early in His ministry. Beginning in **Mark 1:15**, He laid out three steps to get to Heaven (or to be saved). The first is to repent. This means to internally realize the road you are heading down is leading you to destruction. You realize you must halt and make a U-turn back to God seeking His forgiveness. Next, you must believe the Gospel. This means believing that Jesus is Who He said He was—God who became man like us; that He lived on earth and died on the Cross for our sins. This shedding of His Blood was for our cleansing; He then arose from the dead. The Resurrection is the foundation of the Christian Faith. To recap: A person is saved when they turn from their sinful way and accept Jesus' way as the right way. At the same time they must confess with their mouth the Lord Jesus and by faith believe in their heart that Jesus is Lord. Only then will you be spiritually reborn into God's family! (see **John 3:3; Rom 10:9-10; 1 Cor. 15:3-4**)

Think about this: What if the way into heaven was by answering a simple question? What if God were to ask why He should let you into His heaven? How would we respond? Have you ever given any really serious thought to it? Haven't we all violated every single one of the Ten Commandments at one time or another? Here is a quiz:

25 Reasons to Believe

The Ten Commandments

Can you pass on each of these?

1. You shall have no other Gods but me.
2. You shall not make for yourself any idol, nor bow down to it or worship it.
3. You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.
4. You shall remember and keep the Sabbath day holy.
5. Respect your father and mother.
6. You must not kill.
7. You must not commit adultery.
8. You must not steal.
9. You must not give false evidence against your neighbor. (Lie)
10. You must not be envious of your neighbor's goods. You shall not be envious of his house nor his wife, nor anything that belongs to your neighbor

How did you do? I know you failed because we all fail (**see Rom.3:23**). Only one has ever passed and that was Jesus: *“For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin”* (Hebrews 4:15).

No one can do enough good works on their own to earn their way. No one can buy their way into Heaven. No one can base their eternal hope on simply raising their hand at an invitation or walking an aisle during a church meeting. It is still not good enough. No one can base their faith on repeating a prayer to ask Jesus into their heart at age 5 if nothing in their life reflects a solid relationship to God. It is only through understanding the dreadfulness of sin in the light of Jesus, confessing those sins, having them forgiven while believing on the Lord Jesus Christ that a person is truly born again; and thus considered truly saved.

We hope that you have found this booklet to be of help. **PLEASE contact us** to let us know if you would like to know more about Jesus and His awesome love for you! Be blessed!!

25 Reasons to Believe

The Purpose of this book is to provide a help to those who struggle with defending and sharing their faith in Jesus

Business Men In Christ has been committed for years to:

Discipleship, Outreach, and Service

It is our prayer that you read this book and use it as a tool to share the Gospel of the Grace that is found in Christ alone with as many as you are able both at home and abroad!

May God's Grace be with you wherever the Lord may lead!



*No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me.
John 6:44-45 (NKJV)*

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