

7 Pointers To God

Reasons Why I Am Not An Atheist

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To all who look up at the sky and wonder, why?

“I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else.’ I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else.” C.S. Lewis

1 Preface

Ideas have consequences.

And the most important ideas we have are about whether we are here because there is a Creator who chose to create or we are here because of mere chance. The ramifications are huge and the consequences are enormous. These are serious times.

There are two basic camps claiming to be true: the theistic camp (there is a God) and the atheistic camp (there is no God). Both cannot be true.

Through materialistic philosophy, atheism claims that there is no God and that the universe is a product of chance. On the other hand, theism claims that God is the source of all there is in this created universe.

This issue of origins is not primarily an intellectual issue but also a spiritual and moral issue. It is an issue of the heart. For example:

For myself, as no doubt for most of my contemporaries, the philosophy of meaninglessness was essentially an instrument of liberation. The liberation we desired was simultaneously liberation from a certain political and economic system and liberation from a certain system of morality. We objected to the morality because it interfered with our sexual freedom.”¹

¹Aldous Huxley, “Confessions of a Professed Atheist” published in Report: Perspective on the News, Vol. 3, June, 1966, p.19. Huxley’s book Brave New World was published in 1932. He died in 1963.

Man is not looking for God. He is running from God. We have gone into hiding and have come up with intellectual reasons for not believing in Him; for hoping He will go away; for hoping He will die. And if we do believe in a god, we manufacture one (or more than one) that we are comfortable with and where we can control or at least appease.

Ideas do have consequences. If Atheism is indeed true then there is

- no reason why we are here
- no moral law to live by
- no essential meaning to look to
- no hope to look forward to

If there is no God or if He is dead, then truth is dead, meaning is dead, justice is dead and man is dead.

A number of years ago as I was studying in the Library at Ohio State University, I came across graffiti on a wall that read, "God is dead signed, Nietzsche". Some clever student wrote underneath that, "Nietzsche is dead, signed God". Ideas have consequences. God has given us a number of clues that point towards Him and if we are willing to follow them, we will find Him.

"God has put enough into the world to make faith in him a most reasonable thing and he has left enough out to make it impossible to live by sheer reason or observation alone."²

He gives us clues because He won't force us to have to believe in Him. Just as you cannot force a person to love you, even so, God will not force you to believe in Him. But He does give us echoes of His presence so that we may

²Ravi Zacharias, *The Real Face of Atheism* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2004), pp.110-112.

listen with our heart and mind and enter in on life's greatest pursuit in knowing God.

I take issue with atheism and materialistic philosophy and here is why: Seven Pointers to God

2 origin of the universe

The most important question and obvious question of all is, Why is there something rather than nothing? In other words, where did the universe come from? It used to be thought that the universe --matter/energy was eternal.

But now the evidence points to the fact that the universe is not eternal but had a beginning. Einstein's General Theory of Relativity ($E = mc^2$ predicts the universe is not static, unchanging or fixed) and the Big Bang Theory predicts that the universe had a beginning and is still expanding.

The First Law of Thermodynamics which is the Law of Conservation of Matter/Energy, states that matter is not being created or destroyed. In other words, matter cannot just pop into existence from absolute nothingness. Something external to matter must have caused matter to exist, which itself is not matter.

Restated, the universe cannot cause its own existence. Something outside of the universe must have originated it.

The Second Law of Thermodynamics which is the Law of entropy, shows that the universe is moving toward a state of unusable energy — a universal death. If the universe was eternal then it would already be “dead”.

The red shift of the stars is evidence the stars are moving away from us. The universe is expanding. If we were to rewind the clock of the universe, we would come to a point in time when the universe was a singularity from which everything exploded. Scientists tell us that if we were there at the beginning we would witness the expansion of created matter clothed in light.

The Bible poetically puts the beginning of the universe this way,

Bless the LORD, O my soul!
O LORD my God, You are very great;
You are clothed with splendor and majesty,
Covering Yourself with light as with a cloak,
Stretching out heaven like a tent curtain.

Psalm 104:1-2

What existed before that particular point in time? Nothing. There was not just nothing, but there was no-thing. Nothing: no matter; no energy; no space; no time. Absolutely nothing. What comes from nothing? Nothing comes from nothing. But there *is* something -- there is a universe made up of matter/energy, space and time.

Unless you believe that the universe is an illusion and not real then where did it come from? Why is it here? How did it get here? And why is it the way it is?

Something does not just pop into existence from absolute nothing. Something other than time, matter-energy, and space must be eternal that originated everything. For anything that begins to exist must have a cause. What is this eternal cause or uncreated cause?

The choice is simple. Either the universe is eternal (which it is not) or there is something “other” that is eternal. This “other” would be non-material, non-finite and non-spatial (making or taking up space).

This “other” is either impersonal or personal. What I mean by impersonal is that the “other” is a non-being. The impersonal is a non-living, non-thinking, non-rational, non-purposeful entity -- something like a force. The impersonal universe would be all there is and that is all we can say for

it. In saying that the universe is impersonal, we are saying that in timeless eternity, everything -- including living personal beings like you and me -- came from an impersonal force. But since we are creatures of being, who are personal (relational and rational) living within a non-relational, non-rational universe, how do we explain an impersonal universe?

There must be an eternal personal being who is “other” than the universe itself. James W. Sire wrote the following in his book, *The Universe Next Door*:

”God is personal. This means that God is not mere force or existent “substance” God is *He*; that is, God has personality. Personality requires two basic characteristics: (1) self-reflection and (2) self-determination. In other words, God is personal in that he knows himself to be (he is self-conscious and he possesses the characteristics of self-determination (he “thinks” and “acts”).³

The universe did not create itself (0+0+0+0+0+chance = everything). An impersonal universe of matter/energy, motion cannot create being.

So, the first question is, where did everything come from? The second question is, why does the personal exist if this universe is impersonal? The evidence points to the presence of an being other than matter/energy. It also points to a personal being who is eternal — an Eternal Being is this “other” that gave the universe its existence.

The theological term for the eternal God is, aseity. Aseity defined means, God is self-sufficient, self-existent, self-

³James W. Sire, *The Universe Next Door: A Basic Worldview Catalog* (Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 2004), p. 24.

sustaining, existing from Himself. He is the source of every created thing.

This Being who is “other” is described by the Jewish scholar known as the Apostle Paul this way:

For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature have been clearly seen being understood through what has been made, so that they (mankind) is without excuse (to the existence of a Creator). Romans 1:20. NASB

The creation points us to the personal God. And the Bible calls this God, “Holy” which in its primary meaning means, “Other.”

If you heard, “knock, knock” on your door, you would ask, “Who’s there?” and expect an answer in return before opening it. But the atheist would say even though he hears the knock, no one is there.

3 Origin of Life

The universe is made up of the impersonal. It is made up of a variety of impersonal elements which are formed from impersonal stars and supernovae (stars that explode).

This is fascinating by itself, but how does the impersonal, non-living elements of the universe and of our planet Earth produce life? How does the inorganic (non-living) produce the organic (living)? And yet, here we are — living, breathing, thinking, loving beings.

In spite of all the myriads of experiments from — Miller-Urey experiments to the current research in abiogenesis trying to produce life from non-life elements — we are nowhere closer to pinpointing where life comes from.

Rocks do not produce life. Particles do not produce life. Only life produces life. Where does this life come from? Ultimately, there must be life that is eternal.

Then, the Lord God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being. Genesis 2:7

Life comes from life — from the Author of life.

4 Origin of Consciousness

What is consciousness? Consciousness is self-awareness and self-determination. These qualities belong to personal beings.

“As consciousness goes, cognitive psychologist Steven Pinker, writes,

“We have no scientific explanation.” Philosopher David Chalmers adds, “We know consciousness far more intimately than we know we know the rest of the world, but we understand the rest of the world far better than we understand consciousness.”⁴

Where does consciousness come from? Chemicals, elements, electrons, protons, quarks, stars, planet and such are not conscious. Why do we ask questions? Why do we hunger for identity and significance and knowledge? How do we know that we know anything?

If we come from an atheistic universe we should not expect consciousness because the universe is unconscious, unaware of itself and undetermined in where it is headed. If that is so, then why is man conscious, self-aware and self-determined?

He is uniquely aware and purposefully driven. He admires; he questions; he investigates; he plans; he creates. We take these things for granted just like a fish does water. But atheism says this universe is unconscious. How does consciousness come from unconscious stuff? For there to be consciousness, there must be a Conscious One.

⁴Dubesh D’Souza, *Life After Death: The Evidence* (Washington, D.C.: Regnery Press, 2009), 133.

And God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM” and He said, Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, “I AM” has sent me to you, Exodus 3:14.

God, “The Conscious One”, reveals Himself to Moses as the God who is the “I AM.” This Name comes from the verb “to be”; to be a self-existent being, to be a self-sufficient being and to be a self-aware being. God is complete in Himself and He has chosen to create beings after His likeness.

Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness . . . And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Genesis 1:26-27

5 Origin of Natural Laws and Fine Tuning

Natural Laws

Why is there regularity in nature, which we call the Laws of Nature? Why does nature have laws? These “Laws” are not derived from nature. It is from these “Laws” nature is. Where did these “Laws” come from?

Modern science was birthed from a Christian world view that “sees” God creating and maintaining an orderly universe versus a universe of chance, chaos and randomness. Albert Einstein said, “The most incomprehensible thing about the universe is that it is comprehensible.”⁵

Incredibly, the laws of nature are universal constants and can be measured with mathematics. Why is this? For example, the speed of light travels at 186,000 miles per second. This is an exact speed that is the same both in outer space and in our homes when we flip a switch to turn on a light. This is a mathematical wonder.

The mathematical nature of nature “is something bordering on the mysterious and there is no rational explanation for it.”⁶

Physicist Paul C. Davies comments:

“...to be a scientist, you had to have faith that the universe is governed by dependable, immutable, absolute, universal, mathematical laws of an

⁵Collected quotes from Albert Einstein, accessed December 21, 2010, <http://rescomp.stanford.edu/~cheshire/EinsteinQuotes.html>

⁶Eugene Wigner, “The Unreasonable Effectiveness of Mathematics in the Natural Sciences,” in Douglas Campbell and John Higgins, eds., *Mathematics: People, Problems, Results*, Vol. 3 (Belmont, California: Wadsworth, 1984), p. 117.

unspecified origin. You've got to believe that these laws won't fail, that we won't wake up tomorrow to find heat flowing from cold to hot, or the speed of light changing by the hour. Over the years I have often asked my physicist colleagues why the laws of physics are what they are? ...The favorite reply is, 'There is no reason they are what they are--they just are.'⁷

If there are Laws of Nature, there must be a Lawgiver.

Fine Tuning

Somebody has said the universe looks like the universe knew we were coming. Sir Martin Rees, Britain's Astronomer Royal and President of the Royal Society, writes in his book, *Just Six Numbers*, that "the emergence of life is governed by six constants. Each one of these constants is so precisely determined that if there was a minor adjustment in any one of them would have made the existence of the universe and life impossible."

Have you ever had an aquarium, particularly a salt water aquarium? I do not have a very good track record with fish and aquariums. If the aquarium conditions are not just right, the fish go belly up. Even so, if the conditions of the universe are not just so, then the entire universe would go belly up.

Why is this the case? Listed below are the Four Fundamental Forces that are universally constant with very precise numerical values.⁸

1. **The strong nuclear force** This force defines how firmly atomic nuclei bind together. It overcomes the

⁷Paul Davies, "Taking Science on Faith," New York Times, November 24, 2007, <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/11/24/opinion/24davies.html>, accessed December 23, 2010.

⁸Mark Whorton and Bill Roberts, *Understanding Creation*, (Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2008), pp. 306-309.

electromagnetic force which causes particles of like charge to repel each other. The strong nuclear force keeps that from happening. This force has a value of .007. If it were 0.006 or 0.008 we could not exist.

2. **The weak nuclear force** This force changes one flavor of quark into another. It is crucial to the structure of the universe in that, a) The sun would not burn without it, and b) it is necessary for the formation of heavy elements above iron. If it were slightly less, then we would not have the chemistry on which life is based.
3. **Electromagnetic force** This force holds electrons and protons together in an atom and holds atoms together in molecules. If there was an magnetic imbalance in the universe, the universe would be ripped apart. The Electromagnetic force is 1×10^{36} stronger than gravity. Yet the universe is electrically neutral. This means that the number of protons is equal to the number of electrons. What an amazing balance.
4. **Gravitational force** This is force is the means by which objects with mass attract one another. The gravitational constant (6.672×10^{-11}) is, so far as we know, the same throughout the universe. If it were slightly stronger, stars would become too large and burn out too quickly. If it were slightly weaker, stars would be too cool for nuclear fusion to occur thus no heavy elements, like iron, would be produced. This would make life impossible.

The universe is finely calibrated for existence and the Earth is critically balanced for life. If one of these constants were changed just slightly, life — and in some cases, the universe itself — could not exist.

How do materialistic processes of chance, mutation and natural selection explain the finely tuned numerical values in

nature for the existence of both the universe itself and from that, life?

Why does the universe operate so orderly? Why is that? What or who tuned and sustains the universe so that you can live?

The heavens telling of the glory of God; And the firmament is declaring the work of His hands. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night reveals knowledge, Psalm 19:1-2.

6 Origin of Morality

“Since everything is chemically determined then whatever is, is right” so said The Marquis de Sade.⁹

But is this really true? If it is, then why do we all want justice? What is justice? What is morality? Do right and wrong, good and evil really exist, or is everything a matter of personal preference? I am not saying that an atheist cannot be moral. He or she can and may live a moral life. But who defines what is moral, what is right, what is evil? Do we just arbitrarily make it up? Is morality just a social convention by which we live with order?

What if I don’t want to be forced to live according to someone else’s preference? If there is no basis for right and wrong, then how can we unequivocally say that torturing babies for fun is wrong, or that what Hitler did to the Jews and many others was evil and horrendous, or that forcing women to become sex slaves is heinous?

If materialistic philosophy is valid then there is no ultimate-objective morality. There is no cosmic justice. There is no real right nor real wrong. There is no true truth. There is no evil. It is all a mere preference. There would be no such thing as evil. We should expunge those very word and ideas from our vocabulary and mind.

How does an atheist define evil? For an atheist, whatever is, is. The word *evil* is a theistic vocabulary word. An atheist should not use the word evil unless he is ready to acknowledge there is a Creator who is good.

⁹Brad Harrub, Ph.D., and Bert Thompson, Ph.D., “The Origin of the Brain and Mind” (Part II), Apologetics Press: Reason and Revelation, February 2004, 24 [2]: 9-15; <http://www.apologeticspress.org/articles/3>, accessed December 23, 2010.

There are two kinds of truth. The first kind of truth is *subjective*, which means something maybe true for me but not necessarily true for others. Here is an example of subjective truth: “Coffee ice cream is the best ice cream in the world.” This is a matter of taste and my preference but it may not be yours. That is subjective truth.

The second kind of truth is *objective*. Here is an example of objective truth. “Giving coffee ice cream to a diabetic for medicine is wrong.” This last sentence is not a matter of preference. It is a matter of life and death. My Dad was diabetic and it would have been immoral for me to knowingly give him ice cream instead of insulin.

Why? Where do our moral motions come from if all we are is a collage of chemicals?

Truth matters. Ideas have consequences. If I had two pills that looked identical, but one was aspirin and the other was arsenic, would it make any difference which one you swallowed? Truth matters.

Objective truth is not personal, not a matter of preference and not invented by man for the well-being of society it is built in because we are moral beings. Mankind doesn’t always live out morality and may apply it in various ways but we all have moral motions.

We all desire justice— we want things to be made right. How do we know what is right unless we have a universal standard? Morality is like true north on a compass: it gives direction to our life.

The universal standard is not society, it is not law. It is not those in control. It is not us. The universal standard for truth, justice and morality is the very essence of the living

God. He is truth. He is just. He is righteous. And we are His image bearers.

For when the Gentiles who do not have the Law do instinctively the things of the Law, these not having the Law are a Law to themselves in that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness, and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending themselves.

Romans 2:14-15

7 Origin of Jesus Christ

There is also the challenge of Jesus. No matter who you are or what you believe, you have to answer the questions about who Jesus Christ is and how can you explain Him?

Then Jesus asked His disciples, "Who do you say I am?" Simon Peter responded, "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God", Matthew 16:15-16. A crusty Roman Centurion who had presided over Jesus' crucifixion watched Him die and then he declared, "Truly, this was the Son of God."

This is extraordinary! What would make Simon Peter and the other followers, the Centurion and since then millions of millions of people throughout history make that claim?

People from all over the globe and from all walks of life have declared that Jesus is the Christ (Messiah) as promised by God.

Why would the original disciples and millions of others say such an incredible thing?

Here is just one example of what He said and did.

After a few days, Jesus returned to Capernaum, and word got around that he was back home. A crowd gathered, jamming the entrance so no one could get in or out. He was teaching the Word. They brought a paraplegic to him, carried by four men. When they weren't able to get in because of the crowd, they removed part of the roof and lowered the paraplegic on his stretcher. Impressed by their bold belief, Jesus said to the paraplegic, "Son, I forgive your sins."

Some religion scholars sitting there started whispering among themselves, "He can't talk that way! That's blasphemy! God and only God can forgive sins."

Jesus knew right away what they were thinking, and said, "Why are you so skeptical? Which is simpler: to say to the paraplegic, 'I forgive your sins,' or say, 'Get up, take your stretcher, and start walking'? Well, just so it's clear that I'm the Son of Man and authorized to do either, or both . . ." (he looked now at the paraplegic), "Get up. Pick up your stretcher and go home." And the man did it—got up, grabbed his stretcher, and walked out, with everyone there watching him. They rubbed their eyes, incredulous—and then praised God, saying, "We've never seen anything like this!, Mark 2:1-12, *The Message*

The religious scholars were thinking, "Who does He think He is! Only God can forgive sins." So, who does Jesus think He is?

Was He deceived? Was He delusional? There were many so-called Messiahs before and after Jesus. They were deceived and or deluded. But was He?

If He was deceived or delusional then how was He able to do all that He was able to do? And how do you explain the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the effects of the resurrection? Not only were the lives of all Jesus' disciples radically changed but each one died for his belief in the resurrection of Jesus. There is also the transformed life of the apostle Paul of Saul.

Consider these words of ex-atheist C.S. Lewis as he expressed his thoughts about Christ in the classic work, *Mere Christianity*:

I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: "I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept His claim to be God." That is the one thing we must not say. A man who said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic--on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg--or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.¹⁰

Who do *you* think Jesus is? How do you explain Him

¹⁰C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity* (New York: The MacMillan Company, 1960), pp. 40-41.

8 Origin of My Faith Walk

Have you ever heard the expression, “Something got lost in the translation”? This reminds me of software programs you can buy that translates one language into another. All you do is type in your language (English) and have it translate it into virtually any language you want.

I heard about a man who wondered how accurate these translations were. So he put it to the test using the familiar song, “Take Me Out To The Ball Game.” He then typed the lyrics in, and then had them translated it into German. Then he took the German translation and translated back to English. This is what he got. “Execute me to the ball play. Execute me with the masses. Buy me some certain ground nuts and *cracker-stick-foosig*. I’m not interested if I’m ever received back. Let me root, root for the main team. If they do not win it is dishonor. For there are one, two, three impacts on you at the old ball play.”

Something got lost in the translation.

Well, some serious stuff has gotten lost in the Hollywood version of who Jesus is and what He came to do. I want to focus on three facts about Jesus that has helped me and millions of others to become followers of Christ — Christians. I will approach these three facts by telling you two true stories and one simple illustration that points to who the real Jesus is.

The true story of tookie

The first one is a true story of a Korean woman who had an affair with an American soldier during the Korean War. She became pregnant and the soldier returned to the States.

Soon the Korean woman delivered the baby girl — a girl who stuck out because her was blond and curly. In that culture, children of mixed races were ostracized by the community. In fact, many women would kill their biracial children because they did not want them to face such rejection and humiliation. This woman did not do that. For seven years this mother tried to raise her daughter in the midst of horrible ridicule.

But seven years, this mom did something horrible that most of us would not understand today: She abandoned her young daughter to the streets. This little girl joined other homeless children who were sleeping under bridges, eating garbage and being taunted by the community. She was called the ugliest word in the Korean Language – *tookie* – meaning alien devil. This is the way she learned to view herself.

Years later, this is what she said: “When you hear what you are, when you are a little child day after day after day, you begin to believe that about yourself. I believed anyone could do whatever they wanted to do to me physically because I was not a person. I was inhuman. I was dirty. I had no name. I had not identity. I had no future. And I hated myself.”

For two years she lived on the streets. Finally, she made it to an orphanage and was the oldest child there. One day the word came that a couple from America was coming the next day to adopt a little boy. This girl was asked with giving the boys baths and cleaning them up in readiness. The next day the American couple came. This is how the girl recalled the scene: “I saw that man with his huge hands lift up each and every baby. I saw tears running down his face and I knew that he would if he could have he would have taken the whole lot home with them. Then he saw me out of the corner of his eye. I was nine years old but I did

not even weigh thirty pounds. I was a scrawny thing. I had worms in my body, lice in my hair and I had boils all over me. But the man came over to me. He took his huge hand and he laid it on my face. What was he saying? “I want this child. This is the child for me.””

This is what Jesus does to each one of us. He looks beyond the ugliness of our sin, past the scars of our failure, guilt and shame that we carry. He peers all the way down to a soul that is made in the image of God that is badly damaged and says, “I want this child. This is the child for me.”

For we have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, “Abba Father”, Romans 8:15. God demonstrates His own love toward us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us, Romans 5:8.

I am a Christian because Jesus loves and accepts me.

This is the wonder of the Christian story — God wants you. He is aware of everything about you. Your innermost thoughts, your fears, the real you and He still wants you — forever!

That girl responded to the American man by spitting on him and running away. She had never experienced such love and couldn’t believe it. And so it is with so many of us — even some of us who have been regular church-goers. We reject such love and run away. Well, this man did not give up and the girl finally was won by his love. So it is with the Lord, He will not give up pursuing you. I pray you will be won by his love today. Do not harden your heart toward Him any longer.

I am a Christian because Jesus changes and transforms me forgives me of all my sin

This is a story from a lady who was being baptized. At this baptism service, the people being baptized were told to take a piece of paper and write down some of their sins and fold it over. When they were called forward to be baptized, they would pin their paper to a large wooden cross. This was to illustrate what the Bible says about our sins having been nailed to the cross and thus fully paid for by the death of Christ. Then they would be baptized. I want to read you a letter this lady wrote after her baptism:

“I remember my fear. It was the most fear I have experienced in my life as I wrote as tiny as I could on that piece of paper the word abortion. I was so scared that someone would open the paper, read it and find out that it was me. I almost wanted to get up and walk out of the service. The guilt and the fear were that strong. When my turn came, I walked up toward the cross and I pinned the paper there and I was directed over to a Pastor to be baptized. He looked me straight in the eyes.

And I thought for sure he was going to read in my eyes this terrible secret that I kept from everybody for so long. Instead I felt like God was telling me, “I love you, it’s o.k. You’ve been forgiven. You’ve been forgiven.” I felt so much love for me, a terrible sinner. It was the first time I really every felt forgiveness and unconditional love. It was unbelievable and it was indescribable. Friend, do you have inside of you some deep, dark secret sin that you would not even want to write down anonymously for fear that someone will find out?

For example, through lying to or misleading others, saying or thinking hateful words, or holding on to anger, a number of little regrets that have piled up. Christ not only wants you

but He also wants to lift the guilt off your shoulders and remove the shame from your heart. He wants you to experience a change and a transformation – a life transformed from glory to glory.

Complete and total forgiveness.

I even I will blot out your transgressions and not remember them anymore, Isaiah 43:25.

Jesus wants to forgive you of your past and set you free.

I am a Christian because Jesus triumphed over death when He resurrected.

The love and forgiveness of Christ is what brought me to Him. It was the fact of the resurrection that nailed the case shut. The love of God and the forgiveness of God would both be mere speculation if it weren't for the physical resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The empty tomb of Jesus proves that God really does love us and really does forgive us of all our sin. The resurrection of Jesus is not some story to read to your children or not just another Santa Claus-type-hope. It is an historical fact. The Old testament predicted the resurrection of the Messiah hundreds of years before He was born. Jesus Himself predicted many times that He would suffer, be killed and be raised up on the third day.

Jesus appeared to over 500 hundred people at one time after He was raised from the dead. Christians don't follow a dead man. They worship a Jesus who is alive forevermore. Again quoting C.S. Lewis. "I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else."

Let me illustrate. You are desperately lost in trying to get home when you come to a split in the trail. You can go left or right, but you are not sure which one to choose. However, there happen to be two people on each path. The one on the right is dead. The one on the left is a Forest Ranger alive and well.

Who are you going to follow?

9 Conclusion

The reason why I am a Christian is because God sought me out and won my heart. He wanted to make me His child. He longed to forgive me and give me eternal life. He died on the Cross in my place to pay my debt. He rose from proving who He is and what He said is true.

Would you like to meet Him? The window of opportunity is open in your soul right now. Don't turn your back. Say yes to Him now:

How do you do this?

First, answer this: are you guilty of breaking God's moral law?

Yes or No

If yes, then do you want God's forgiveness for your sin and to be released from your guilt?

Yes or No

If yes, do you believe that Jesus Christ was crucified in your place with your sin and rose again from the dead in order to bring you into relationship with God?

Yes or No

If yes, then are you ready to declare that Jesus Christ is the Savior and Lord and you want Him to be your Savior and Lord also.

Yes or No

If yes, tell God in your own words each one of these things you said yes to, and be honest with Him about your life and your sin. Let Him know you want to be forgiven by Him through the favor of Jesus Christ and that you want to be in relationship with Him.

If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved, Romans 10:9.

Truly, Truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death to life, John 5:24

He who has the Son has the life, he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. These things I have written to you who believe in name of the Son of God, in order that you may know that you have eternal life, John 5:12-13.

After you have expressed these things to God, hank Him. Next, get a Bible and read the following passages. These are in the New Testament in the book of Romans. You can use the table of content in the front of the Bible to locate Romans.¹¹

1. Romans 1:18-21
2. Romans 3:23
3. Romans 6:23
4. Romans 5:8
5. Romans 10:9,13
6. Romans 12:1-2
7. Romans 15:13

¹¹ “Romans 1:18-21” means the book of Romans, chapter 1, verses 18-21. If you don’t have a Bible, use an online one until you can get your own copy. I recommend www.biblegateway.com.

Talk to a Christian friend and ask Him to help you grow in your relationship to God.

Want to know more? Contact me at
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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Doug and his wife, Sharon have been married since 1978 and have six children and eleven grandchildren (currently). Doug is the President and Strategic Coordinator for e3 Leadership Group. e3 Leadership Group coordinates cross cultural projects between the East and West using the English language. Projects include business camps, leader camps. English camps, Backpacking. Doug is also a conference speaker on a variety of subjects that relate to Leadership and Leadership Teams, Healthy Relationships, Character Building, Career Pathways, Effective Public Speaking team with engaging building exercises.