

Why Am I A Christian? (Apologetic Series)

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

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

Why am I a Christian? *First, because God has granted me sight.*

In all my studies of the scriptures, I’m led to first believe that the cause for my conversion is not mainly myself or any of my own powers of reason or discernment – but, rather, first because of the love and power of God himself.

Paul writes, “And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants[c] for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.” (2Co.4.3-6).

Here, for Paul, God is clearly the one who calls one to sight in a world where each individual person who’s lost in sin also shares the malady of spiritual blindness. We don’t see God, we don’t choose God, we don’t want God – but the God who said “Let there be light” is also the God who calls “Let there be sight.”

Elsewhere Paul again highlights God’s power in conversion: referring to opponents of the gospel, he writes “God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.” (2Ti.2.25)

Again, God is the power that grants repentance to one to come to their senses and escape the deep, demonic soul-clutch of Satan.

Now, of course, our question should be something related to *How does God accomplish this?* The Bible states clearly: “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” (Ro.10.17) When the soul is allowed the light beam of the divine message into their hearts, it either illuminates or the door is shut. And since this power resides in the Bible, this all is clearly accomplished by God.

So for my first answer to this question, I have to give credit to whom it’s due. I thank God for prying my heart open through his word. I’m thankful to the Bible itself. I’m thankful for

so many Christians who took time to study the Bible with me to help me see its message. And I'm thankful to so many who've prayed for my souls.

I am first a Christian because of the love and care of those outside of myself.

Anticipate the next article in which we'll deal with the resurrection in some detail.