

# WHY I BELIEVE WHAT I BELIEVE

By Jason Patrick Hilburn

Below is a very brief summary of reasons why I believe in God, the Bible, and in Jesus Christ. This will not be very detailed or fully comprehensive, but it will hopefully give the reader information that will cause further investigation. God does not expect man to believe things for which there is no evidence. Christianity is logical—it makes sense, and it is supported by all the evidence needed to believe it.

## • WHY I BELIEVE IN GOD

- Arguments to the Contrary Are Weak
  - Arguments men pose against God's existence such as something from nothing and the existence of evil and suffering are weak.
  - Regarding wickedness and suffering, they fail to realize that man has caused these things—not God.
    - Above all else, God desires that people love (Matthew 22:36ff; 1 John 4:8). However, true love requires free will. Man has abused this gift of free will, often making sinful choices that harm the one committing the sin and others.
    - Atheists or agnostics also imply that God may exist, but if He does, they allege that He must be evil, and they choose not to acknowledge Him.
    - Such an admission only shows that the existence of God is a possibility, and their argument is thus forfeited.
    - Their refusal to acknowledge God does not disprove His existence.
    - The only thing they have proven is that they misunderstand His nature.
  - The Theory of Evolution is not supported by true science, and is one of the greatest lies ever propagated.
- Scientific Laws Indicate God's Existence
  - The Law of Biogenesis – life only comes from life, and if so, God exists. (Does anyone remember Louis Pasteur disproving spontaneous generation?) Also, with physical life, the offspring is always of the same kind as the parent, which refutes organic evolution.
  - The Laws of Thermodynamics
    - Things become more disorderly. The universe is winding down, and at one point it was fully wound up.
    - Matter and energy can neither be created nor destroyed from within the physical universe
  - The Law of Probability – The odds of matter randomly arranging itself into a living creature with complex features such as DNA is impossible.

- The Law of Cause and Effect – the universe is here, and it must have had an adequate, superior pre-existing cause. To say it all came from an explosion which came from nothing is not logical.
- Design Demands a Designer – There are too many complex things in this universe that cannot be explained by random events
- Irreducible Complexity – Some creatures are formed in such a way that it would have been impossible for them to have evolved (such as the bombardier beetle)
- There are only three explanations men could pose for the universe's existence:
  - The universe is eternal (This would contradict the Second Law of Thermodynamics, and even famous evolutionists do not believe this)
  - The universe created itself (Although some make this proposterous claim, this is the antithesis of logical thought!)
  - The universe had a pre-existing Creator who existed independently of any material universe (This is the only remaining option!)
- The vastness, beauty, design, and order of the universe could not have come from nothing.
  - Nothing cannot produce anything; therefore, if there were ever a time when absolutely nothing existed, there would be nothing existing now. Because something exists now, something has always existed! It is not the physical universe, but something (or rather Someone) prior to and superior to physical matter that has always existed (see the scientific Law of Causality).

- **WHY I BELIEVE THE BIBLE**

- If one believes that God exists, he should begin seeking God. One should wonder if God ever communicated with His creation. A search of ancient writings quickly brings forth one Volume that demonstrates that it is the revelation of God. The Bible is unique and divine.
- The Bible has:
  - Unparalleled Unity (A totally unified message written by about 40 inspired writers from different locations in different periods of time).
  - Scientific Accuracy and Foreknowledge (true scientific facts before modern secular science came around to the same conclusions)
  - Archaeological Accuracy
  - Historical Accuracy
  - Hundreds of detailed prophecies which deny natural explanation in their fulfillment
  - The Bible is the most historically documented book from the ancient world.
    - There is no reason to question its authenticity.

- We have the Dead Sea scrolls and well over 5,000 manuscript copies to verify that what we have today is the Word of God.

- **WHY I BELIEVE IN JESUS**

- The Bible is from God, and it speaks of Jesus from beginning to end (John 5:39).
- Jesus fulfilled a tremendous number of prophecies that prove He is the Messiah (Gen. 3:15; 49:10; Psalm 22:16; 34:20; Micah 5:2, and many others).
- Jesus' body was never found, because He ascended to Heaven
- No other person has had such a profound impact on this world

- **BECAUSE THE BIBLE IS FROM GOD:**

- I believe the Holy Bible is all-sufficient for faithful living, and that men must have authority from God's Word for everything they do (Matthew 28:18-20; John 12:48; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; 2 Peter 1:3; Colossians 3:17).
- I believe that Christ has only one true church that He built (Matthew 16:18; Acts 20:28; Ephesians 4:4), and that church can be identified by:
  - Its plan of salvation (Acts 2:36-38; 8:35-39; 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21)
  - Its practices of worship (John 4:24; Acts 2:42; 20:7; Ephesians 5:19-20; Colossians 3:16-17; 1 Corinthians 16:2)
  - Its organization (Acts 14:23; 1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5)
  - The doctrine it teaches (Acts 20:27; 2 Corinthians 4:1-5; Galatians 1:6-9; 1 Timothy 4:16; 2 Timothy 2:15-18; 4:2; 2 Peter 3:16)
  - The way it speaks in general (2 Timothy 1:13; 1 Peter 4:11, 16; Romans 16:16)
- I believe that one must do the following to be saved:
  - Believe in Jesus as the Son of God (John 8:24; Mark 16:16)
  - Repent of sins (Acts 2:38; 17:30-31; 2 Corinthians 7:10)
  - Confess faith in Jesus (Matthew 10:32; Acts 8:37)
  - Be immersed for the purpose of washing away sins (Acts 22:16)
    - At this point, one is added to the Lord's one true church (Acts 2:41, 47; 1 Cor. 12:13; Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:4; 5:23).
  - Faithfully follow Jesus until death (Revelation 2:10).
- Faithful living includes worshiping God faithfully and regularly with other Christians (Hebrews 10:25). This worship includes:
  - Praying to God through His Son, our Mediator (John 16:23; Eph. 5:20).
  - Singing to Jesus and to God the Father (Acts 16:25; Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16).
  - Giving money on the first day of every week according to our prosperity (1 Corinthians 16:2; 2 Corinthians 9:7)
  - Preaching/hearing preaching (Acts 20:7)

- Partaking of the Lord's Supper on the first day of every week (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 11:20-ff; cf. 1 Cor. 16:2)
- Faithful living also includes:
  - Resisting temptations to sin (1 John 1:7; 2:3-6, 15-17; Galatians 5:19-21; Romans 6:1-13; 8:1-13; 12:1-2; 1 Peter 1:15-16; Revelation 2:10; etc.)
  - Confessing sins to God in repentant prayer if we sin after Scriptural baptism (Acts 8:22-24; 1 John 1:9; 2:1-ff).
  - Being a good influence on those around us (Matthew 5:13-16; Romans 14; 1 Corinthians 8; 10:23-33)
  - Evangelism (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 15:15-16; 2 Timothy 2:2)
  - Restoring erring brothers and sisters (Matthew 18:15-17; Galatians 6:1; James 5:19-20)
  - Benevolence (Galatians 6:10; James 1:27)
  - Edification (2 Corinthians 12:19; Ephesians 4:12, 16, 29; 1 Timothy 1:4; Hebrews 10:23-25)
  - Studying God's Word (2 Timothy 2:15; 1 Peter 2:2; 2 Peter 3:15-18)
  - Defending the Truth (Acts 19:8-10; 1 Peter 3:15; Philippians 1:7, 17; Titus 1:9-11; 2 Timothy 4:2-4)
  - Marking and avoiding false teachers; refusing to give support to false doctrine in any way (Romans 16:17; 1 Corinthians 10:25-33; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18; Ephesians 5:11; 2 John 9-11)
  - Anything else we are commanded in the New Testament (John 12:48; 14:15; 1 Corinthians 14:37; Colossians 3:17; 2 Timothy 3:16-17).

*Check back later for updates to this document. Last modified March 12, 2015*

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