

WHY I BELIEVE

1st Peter 3:15

Sometimes our friends, neighbors, coworkers, or classmates will inquire, “Why do you believe what you believe?” They may be trolling us, ready to scoff at our every answer. They may be making polite conversation because they know we are church-goers. They may have an academic curiosity about the world, perceiving our faith as merely cultural. They may, even, be genuine seekers, desirous of the truth! We should be prepared to tell people who may not accept Scripture that we have valid reasons for our faith!

I. I BELIEVE GOD EXISTS BECAUSE NATURE REVEALS HIM.

A. Hebrews 3:4

Visiting ghost towns, mining towns that have been abandoned for generations, Rachel and I sometimes enter old miner’s cabins. These stone structures, standing a century and a half, are evidence to us of those who had built them. Observing nature, we should reach the same conclusion about a Creator. Nature does not reveal whom God is, but it certainly does reveal that God is.

B. Psalm 19:1

Gazing at stars, clouds, and sunsets, we are filled with wonder at the beauty of it all. Why? What evolutionary purpose does it serve to recognize beauty outside sexual reproduction? Appreciation for beauty points to a higher cause, beyond the capacity for evolutionists to explain.

C. Romans 1:20

Those living immorally, as if God is not real, are inexcusable because God, who is invisible, has manifested His existence through the products of His creation.

II. I BELIEVE GOD EXPECTS US TO SEEK HIM BECAUSE HE HAS INSTILLED IT IN US INNATELY TO DO SO.

A. Ecclesiastes 3:11

God placed the spark of eternity in the human soul. There is an inborn yearning to connect with the Divine.

B. Acts 17:26-28

All peoples of all places in all times have worshiped. Most failed to worship the true and living God, but atheism remains the outlier.

C. Matthew 7:7

God wants to be found.

III. I BELIEVE JESUS OF NAZARETH ROSE FROM THE DEAD BECAUSE EYEWITNESSES BORE TESTIMONY TO THE FACT.

A. Luke 24:44-48

Following His death and prior to His ascension, Jesus instructed His apostles to bear witness to His resurrection, and so preach the gospel.

B. Acts 2:32; 4:33; 10:40-41

“I know the resurrection is a fact, and Watergate proved it to me. How? Because 12 men testified they had seen Jesus raised from the dead, then they proclaimed that truth for 40 years, never once denying it. Every one was beaten, tortured, stoned and put in prison. They would not have endured that if it weren’t true. Watergate embroiled 12 of the most powerful men in the world – and they couldn’t keep a lie for tree weeks. You’re telling me 12 apostles could keep a lie for 40 years? Absolutely impossible.” – Charles Colson, Special Counsel to President Nixon, 1969-1970

C. 1st Corinthians 15:1-8

The fundamental tenets of the gospel are fourfold:

1. Jesus died: We are sinners in need of atoning blood, for which animal sacrifice is insufficient.
2. Jesus was buried: Spending three days in the tomb verifies He was actually dead.

3. Jesus resurrected: Many people who founded religions died for their cause, like Joseph Smith or David Koresh, but only one ever conquered death, returning to life.
4. Jesus was seen: Multitudes beheld Him alive after death. The resurrection is substantiated by their testimony.

IV. I BELIEVE JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD, THE SAVIOR, & THE JUDGE OF ALL SOULS BECAUSE HE AROSE.

A. Romans 1:1-4

His pedigree as God's Son is confirmed by the Holy Spirit because He rose from the dead!

B. Acts 5:30-32

Because He rose from the dead, He is the Prince and Savior who forgives sin!

C. Acts 17:31

His resurrection is assurance that He will someday judge the world.

V. I BELIEVE GOD HOLDS SOULS ACCOUNTABLE TO AN OBJECTIVE STANDARD BECAUSE HE IS THE GOD OF TRUTH.

A. Deuteronomy 32:4

It is axiomatic that if One so powerful to create the universe exists, He is morally upright and concerned with justice. That false gods, like Zeus, would be dishonest and profligate, reflects the worldliness of the idolaters who imagined him, not the sense of almighty deity.

B. Proverbs 20:10

Dishonesty and inconsistency is not only uncharacteristic of God, but it is abominable to Him.

C. John 14:6; Acts 4:12

Thus, access to God and salvation from sin is exclusive, limited to one source, Jesus Christ of Nazareth.

D. Ephesians 4:4-6

If there is one God, one Lord, and one Spirit, then it must follow that there is one faith to believe, one hope of heaven, one baptism to save, and one body to fellowship.