

In seminary I heard testimony of how a student challenged a person of another faith by stating, “Convince me to become a ----- .” Those words stuck in my mind. What would be my answer if you said to me, “Convince me as to why I should be a Christian.” In simple appeal, this is my reply.

I sum up my response by advocating John 3:16,

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

THE BASIS...

John 3:16 states that there are those who will perish. Therefore, the concern for mankind is that because of their sin, they will perish in Hell. Admittedly, we each have committed our share of sin and as a result we are under the judgment of God. We were born totally depraved and under the condemnation of God.

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Romans 3:23

For the wages of sin is death; Romans 6:23a

As it is written, There is none righteous, no not one. Romans 3:10

And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. John 3:19

What other religion declares deity as

THE GOOD NEWS...

John 3:16 states that sinners may possess everlasting life. A glimmer of hope should shine in your heart. Why? Because, in spite of how vile, wicked, and corrupt you have been – you can have a home in Heaven!

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. [emp. mine] Romans 6:23

Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: John 11:25

Christianity offers hope to the sinner. However, so do many other forms of religion. This then is not the deciding factor.

THE DETAILS...

John 3:16 states several other clear and important truths:

God has a love for the world. The majority of religions portray their god or gods as capricious and wholly self-serving. The Jehovah-God of the Bible goes beyond such pagan concepts by “reaching down” and doing something for fallen man.

In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. I John 4:9
developing a plan for the salvation of sinners?

God gave His only begotten Son.

God responded to sinners by providing a sacrifice for them. The Father yielded up His Son. The Son surrendered His glory and His life by becoming a man and dying.

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8

But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down on the right hand of God; Hebrews 10:12

God decreed the means whereby salvation is received. The text reads this way, “that whosoever believeth in him...” Forgiveness is achieved, not by a work of man, rather through faith.

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works lest any man should boast. [emp. mine] Ephesians 2:8-9

But if it be of works, then it is no more of grace: otherwise work is no more work. Romans 11:6b

Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law: Romans 3:28

THE DISTINCTION...

You say, “Many do.” But, what other

religion manifests their God as *participating* in that plan, thereby *securing* the means for the forgiveness of sinful man? That is, what other religion reveals God as the One doing all that was necessary to accomplish such a plan *without* the help of the sinner?

THE SUMMATION...

Because man is wholly sinful he is unable to be righteous. He is declared to be dead in trespasses and sins (Ephesians 2:1). He is said to be an enemy of God. He is rebellious and cannot, or will not, subject himself to God (Romans 8:7). Since that is the case, man is, in and of himself, incapable of loving God.

Yet, God chose to save some of those ungodly, vile sinners. He purposed to provide a means to satisfy His justice. He devised a plan which would require a pure and sinless sacrifice. Then, He chose to personally become that sacrifice. God in the stead of man! Who would have thought it?

So, Jesus came to Earth and was born of a woman for the intent of dying for men (Hebrews 2:16-17). Jesus *alone* met every legal demand of the law (I Peter 2:22 ; Hebrews 4:15). Jesus *alone* satisfied the justice of God (Isaiah 53:11a ; Hebrews 2:14).

Yes, Jesus was crucified and buried. BUT WAIT! Jesus also rose again from the dead! A literal, physical, bodily resurrection (Hebrews 7:24-25 ; Acts 13:28-37).

Simply, what we could not do, He did. What we did not want, He desired. What we could not earn, He gave. What we did not deserve, He provided. For a man to be life-

less but be given life is grace. To be wholly corrupt but be granted forgiveness is mercy. To deserve the eternal wrath of God but be given the gift of eternal life is love.

THE APPEAL...

Why should you be a Christian? Because salvation is only found in Jesus Christ (Acts 4:12). Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by me. (John 14:6)" Because God has commanded all men everywhere to repent (Acts 17:30).

Rationally speaking, you should be a Christian because no other religion offers eternal life FULL and FREE. No other religion teaches that salvation is by faith alone apart from the works of man. Why does this matter? Biblically, you cannot work or earn salvation, you must receive it.

Repent and believe on Jesus Christ, the Son of God, today! In Christianity, salvation is not based on man, or in man's merits, it is rooted in God and secured by God. Trust Jesus as your Savior right now.

R. Douglas Meadows, 2001

Salvation is of the Lord. Jonah 2:9b

If we can assist you, please call or visit us at:

SHOULD YOU BE A CHRISTIAN?