**Why I should become a Christian**

*Hebrews 11:24-27*

**Introduction**

1. The life of a Christian is a life of sacrifice and self-denial – ***“Then Jesus said to His disciples, ‘If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.’” (Matthew 16:24)***.
   1. Carrying the cross is a symbol of humiliation, suffering, and possible or eventual death.
   2. To carry our cross is to identify with the suffering Lord.
2. The world has tainted the idea of Christianity. They refuse to see it as a religion of self-denial, and likely humiliation.
   1. The denominational perversion of Christ leads one to believe there are no negatives that come with following Christ.
   2. **When people in the world consider Christ, it is all about good feelings. Logical reasoning hardly plays a part. Why then did Moses decide to follow God? 🡪**
3. **Hebrews 11:24-27** – Moses chose suffering over riches. He chose reproach over treasure.
   1. This was not a decision based on a whim.
   2. This was not a decision based upon mere feelings.
   3. **This was a rational and deliberate decision. He had good reason to choose what he chose. (Deciding to become a Christian follows the same concept.)**
4. It makes no sense to become a Christian unless there are incentives given. There must be good reasons – otherwise, why even consider following Christ?
   1. God did not devise a plan that left out any incentive. He gives ample reasons to become a Christian.
   2. **Consider a few in this lesson. Make a deliberate decision. *Why should you become a Christian?***
5. It is God’s desire for man.
6. He is our Creator.
   1. **Hebrews 12:9** – He is the Father of spirits (context: God’s discipline compared with earthly father’s discipline).
      1. ***“[He] forms the spirit of man within him” (Zechariah 12:1)***.
      2. ***“the spirit will return to God who gave it” (Ecclesiastes 12:7b***) (Further proof of ownership, and workmanship).
   2. **Genesis 1:26, 31** – God made man according to His image so as to glorify Him.
   3. **Romans 3:23** – However, all have fallen short of this glory.
7. He has given us instruction.
   1. **Hebrews 1:1-2a** – He has given instruction through His Son.
   2. **1 Peter 4:16** – God desires us to be Christians, and to glorify Him in this capacity.
8. It is the only way to glorify God.
9. We must abide in Christ!
   1. **John 15:5-8** – We can only glorify God by being disciples of His Son.
10. Unless we are in the church we cannot glorify Him.
    1. **Ephesians 3:20-21** – The church is God’s design to bring Him glory.
    2. ***Those who seek to glorify God outside of the church are vainly seeking. He has spoken. We must submit to HIS blueprint.***
11. It is how God preserves the good in the world.
12. Evil in the world is distasteful with God.
    1. Days of Noah – **Genesis 6:5-8** (God was pleased with Noah, and saved him.)
    2. Sodom and Gomorrah – **Genesis 18:22-23** (Slay righteous with wicked?)
       1. (v. 24 – 50). (v. 28 – 45). (v. 29 – 40). (v. 30 – 30). (v. 31 – 20). (v. 32 – 10).
       2. **God was willing to relent if there were righteous men. There were not.**
13. We make the world palatable to God.
    1. **Matthew 5:13-16** – We are the salt and light of the world.
    2. **Salt seasons and preserves. Christians preserve the good in the world.**
       1. **Society changes. Sin has become more and more acceptable.**
       2. **Who is preserving the good? Who hasn’t changed from good to evil? Faithful Christians.**
14. It is a necessity for the home.
15. Must have a relationship with Christ.
    1. **Ephesians 5:15-17** – Instructions for the church’s conduct. Must follow the Lord. Also applied to the family.
    2. In order for the family to function properly, there must be a proper relationship to Christ.
       1. Wives – **Ephesians 5:22-24**
       2. Husbands – **v. 25, 28-33**
       3. Children – **6:1-3**
       4. Fathers – **6:4**
    3. **It is not possible to be the best wife, husband, mother, father, or child without submitting to Christ.**
16. **Parents will be held accountable for how they raise their children. The only way to raise them well is in the Lord.**
17. Because the soul is most valuable.
18. The value of a soul.
    1. **Matthew 16:25-26** – There is nothing more valuable than a soul. All the precious things in the world are but rubbish compared to our inner man.
    2. **Why did Moses make such a decision? He considered the value of his choices. His soul was more valuable to him.**
19. The temporal nature of the world.
    1. **2 Peter 3:10-13** – Because all these things will pass away you should follow God!
    2. ***“the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever” (1 John 2:17).***
20. It is the only way to heaven.
21. There is only one way.
    1. **John 14:6** – Jesus is the ONLY way. You must become a disciple of His.
    2. **John 3:5** – Unless one is born of the Spirit (obeys Jesus’ command to be baptized) you cannot get to heaven.
22. Quantity does not determine salvation’s path. The Lord does – **Matthew 7:13-14, 24-27**

**Conclusion**

1. The decision to become a Christian requires great and serious thought.
2. It must not be a decision that is rash.
3. **“Why should I become a Christian” is a valid question. However, you must be consistent and consider the valid reasons.**
4. Will you obey?