

Why Jesus?

Ten Reasons Why...

By Tom Short (www.thereustbeareason.com)

Reason #1 - He will forgive all your sins: *“Of Jesus, all the prophets bear witness that through His name everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins.” Acts 10:43*

Do you sense a need to be forgiven by God for things you’ve done? - For the longest time, I didn’t. - I knew I was a “sinner,” but somehow, I never thought I’d done anything really bad. The things I did were common for people my age. I felt God would understand my human weaknesses. He knew I tried my best to do right. He wouldn’t hold against me the times I’d made mistakes.

That whole perspective changed once I began to read the Bible for myself.

The Bible teaches that “there is none righteous, not even one” (Romans 3:10) and “all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23).

God gave us His set of standards in the Ten Commandments.

They tell us to worship the one true God and no one else, not to use His name disrespectfully, to honor our parents, not to murder, steal, engage in sexual immorality or to say false things about or to others.

But the Ten Commandments are just the beginning. Jesus taught that God looks at the heart - our deepest motives and desires, the real you and me. For those who prided themselves on not being violent, He warned that being angry with your brother or calling someone a demeaning name merits God’s severe judgment. Lusting for a woman revealed a sinful heart even if you restrained your behavior. Greed, jealousy, bitterness, holding a grudge - all are things in our hearts that God sees. These sins need God’s forgiveness.

Certainly you have done things of which you are ashamed. And, unless you are a psychopath, you have done things for which you feel guilty. This is God’s way of

telling you that you need forgiveness. In fact, forgiveness for our sins is the fundamental need in all of our lives.

Jesus Christ has the ability to forgive your sins. A paralytic was once brought to Jesus to be healed. Jesus told the man his sins were forgiven. The audience was aghast, exclaiming, “Who can forgive sins but God alone?” What was Jesus’ response? “In order that you may know that I have the power to forgive sins...arise, take up your pallet and walk,” which is exactly what the man did!” (Mark 2:3-12). He demonstrated the power to forgive this man - and He can forgive you as well.

Come to Jesus today - right now - and ask Him to forgive you of all your sins.

Reason #2 - He will give you peace: *“Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do*

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About This Issue:

This issue has been written so as to present 10 reasons why I believe in Jesus Christ. He is the one who sets apart Christianity from all other religions—He was not a prophet, but our Savior who died and resurrected 3 days later, in order to pay for our sins...

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.” - John 3:16

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Featured CCA Post: -- "Ian Can't Help You" --

There is one fundamental difference between Christianity and all other religions... You can remove Buddha from Buddhism and you still have Buddhism. You can remove Muhammad from Islam and you still have

Islam. **You CAN NOT remove Christ from Christianity and still have Christianity.** —“If you remove Christ from 'Christian' you get Ian, and Ian can't help you.” - Rabi Zacharia
The center of my faith and

Christianity is the person of Jesus Christ and His resurrection... “ Now if Christ is preached, that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resur-

rection of the dead, not even Christ has been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain.”
- 1 Corinthians 15...

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Why Jesus? - Ten Reason Why... (Continued)

not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.” John 14:27

Our world is filled with trouble. On a personal level, we stress out over grades, money, a boyfriend or girlfriend. Lingering memories from our childhood can cause inner pain and turmoil. Our homes should be a place of rest, but they are often filled with anger and strife. And while we all hope for peace among nations, it doesn't seem to be on the horizon anytime soon.

Jesus does not promise to take away life's troubles, but He does offer peace and strength in the midst of them. He said, “These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world” (John 16:33). Life is filled with times of frustration, disappointment, loss and sadness. Would you like God to give you comfort during these times? You can find it in Jesus.

Why don't we have more peace and harmony in this world? Could it be because more of us don't really have peace within ourselves - or more importantly,

and in my home. Before long, I found it easy to develop harmonious relationships even with strangers or with those I would never naturally like being around.

How about you? Do you have peace in your life? - peace with God, peace within yourself and peace with others? Come to Jesus. He'll give you His peace.

Reason #3 - He loves you: *“Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.” John 15:13*

Many people talk about love; Jesus proved His!

The Bible speaks of God's love as being different than other types of love. Romantic or sexual love finds something attractive in a person and is drawn to them. Friendship is another type of love generated from shared interests. But God's love is different: He doesn't love us because of who we are, but in spite of who we are! His love is unconditional, unchanging and it springs from His very nature rather than from our deserving it.

The world would be a pretty depressing place if we concluded God doesn't love us. But a sun-

This is why turning your back on God and rejecting His love is such a terrible thing. You've probably been deeply hurt by someone who has spurned your love and told you they don't care. Do you realize that turning your back on God hurts Him in a similar way? Do you really want to do that to God?

Although God reigns in heaven above, He came near to us in the person of Jesus Christ. Those who follow Him are not called His slaves – they are called His children and His friends. Would you like to be a friend of God? **There's only one way to enter that relationship – faith in Jesus Christ!**

Reason #4 - He died for you: *“For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God.” 1 Peter 3:18*

Did you ever wonder why Jesus died on the cross?

To know this is vital to understanding what Jesus is all about. Read carefully!

The Bible teaches that God is a just God whose very nature demands that He rightly judge all

brutally painful and bloody. His suffering was intense. This was required to pay the penalty for all the sins ever committed.


Imagine for a moment how awful this was for Jesus to endure. Have you ever been accused of something - worse yet, punished for something - that you did not and never would do? It hurts, doesn't it? But that's exactly what happened with Jesus. Although He was pure, He was judged and punished on the cross as if He was a lust-filled, immoral womanizer and adulterer. Although He only spoke the truth, He was punished as a lying, backbiting, gossip. Although He was generous by nature, He was punished as a thief. Although He was pure love, He was condemned as a man of hate and bigotry. Why? Because He took our sins upon Himself and suffered in our place.

And as amazing as it may sound, God the Father, the judge of all people, has told us that He accepts the sacrifice of Jesus in place of the sins we have committed.

Throughout history, subjects have died for their king and the devoted have died for their god. Only in Jesus does the king die for His subjects; only in Jesus does God die for His creation. Though to many it sounds foolish, to those of us who know Him personally, we agree with the words of the ancient hymn, “Amazing love, how can it be, that Thou, my God, should die for me!”

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peace with God?

Years ago, I protested the Vietnam War. I wanted there to be peace in the world. But one day I realized that I personally lacked peace - peace with people in school, peace in my home, peace in my own heart and peace with God. It all went back to not having a relationship with God.

When I found peace with God through Jesus Christ, I soon discovered peace within myself. And when I had peace within myself, I began to have more peace with other people at school

set, the spring rain, the beauty of creation, the wonder of life – all tell us God is there and that He loves us and cares for us. Jesus demonstrated the love of God in an even greater way, by actually suffering and dying for people. He said He did it for you! Do you know anyone else who would die for you?

Jesus spoke of God's love in a very personal way. Rather than the detached, unemotional god of other religions, God cares for you deeply as an individual. He desires a relationship with you!

evil and all people who do wrong. That includes you and me. We have each sinned, and “the wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23).

Jesus offered Himself as a sacrifice for our sins. He was totally innocent and without guilt, but He stepped forward to bear the punishment we deserved. He is our substitute.

From the beginning of time, God established that “without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness of sins” (Hebrews 9:22). Jesus' death for us was



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Reason #5 - He rose from the dead: *“I am the first and the last, and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore.” Jesus, Revelation 1:18*

The record of most great leaders is the same: The tombs of Buddha, Mohammed, Caesar, Pharaoh, Marx, Darwin, and Einstein are all occupied. The tomb of Jesus is empty! He literally, physically rose from the dead and, in so doing, conquered the ultimate enemy of mankind – death. If you’re looking for proof that someone is truly divine, it’s hard to top this one!

There are certain facts that few historians would ever deny: Jesus lived, He was crucified by the Romans, died and was buried. But it doesn’t stop there. Three days later, the grave in which He was buried was empty. Obviously, there is debate and controversy about what happened to the body, but there can be little argument that the body was gone from the grave. Furthermore, the historical record tells us that a small band of His followers who had gone into hiding to save their own lives, boldly went forth to tell the world that they had personally seen, talked with, and touched Jesus after He had risen from the dead.

In fact, the whole Christian religion hinges on whether or not the resurrection really occurred. No one has ever offered any evidence that those who claimed to have seen the risen Christ lied or were tricked. The witnesses were honest men who had nothing to gain by making up a false story. In most cases, these witnesses were thrown in jail, persecuted, lost all their earthly possessions and ultimately suffered a cruel and painful death rather than deny the resurrection. Those who have examined the evidence have concluded beyond a reasonable doubt that a genuine miracle

occurred: a man who was dead came back to life.

Although this is an incredible miracle, it should not surprise us that Jesus conquered death. Time and again, He claimed that this was His purpose. He came to give us life and “to render powerless him who has the power of death, that is the devil” (Hebrews 2:14). For those who will trust Him as their Lord and Savior, He promises, “Because I live, you shall live also” (John 14:19).

Reason #6 - He will take you to heaven and give you eternal life: *“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.” Jesus, John 5:24*

Have you ever pondered eternity? Perhaps you’ve tried to figure out the biggest number, or where the universe ends, or when time ends, or even how long the waves have been crashing on the seashore. You are created in the image of the eternal God and made by Him to live forever. This is why we all contemplate the awesomeness of eternity.

And, you will live forever in one of two places: heaven or hell. There’s no getting around it, and there’s no third choice. You won’t be annihilated, and you won’t be reincarnated. You will be judged by God, and from that judgment, your eternal destiny will be determined.

It’s a scary thought, is it not? Standing before God in judgment - the One who knows everything you’ve ever thought, everything you’ve ever said and everything you’ve ever done. And to realize that passing means you go to heaven and failing means you go to hell - forever with no second chances. Only a fool would go through life unprepared for this ultimate “final exam.” Are you ready?

Come to Jesus. He has already borne your judgment and He alone can deliver you from the certainty of God’s coming wrath upon the things you’ve done to violate His laws.

Remember, you will exist forever in either the bliss of heaven or the agony of hell. Some people don’t like the thought of eternity and wish they could just die someday and that would be the end of conscious existence. But that is not an option. For those without Christ, eternal existence will be unbearably terrible and there will be no escape. Come to Jesus, develop a relationship with Him and you will discover a life worth living - both now and into eternity.

Reason #7 - He’s coming back : *“Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done. Blessed is he who heeds the words of the prophecy of this book.” Revelation 22:7,12*

Before His death, Jesus promised that He would one day return. The Old Testament prophets and the New Testament writers all looked forward with great expectancy to the time when the Messiah would come to earth, set up His kingdom, judge all evildoers and bring peace to the world. When that day comes, you’re going to want to make sure you are on Jesus’ side!

And that day may be coming sooner than you think!

The Bible gives us specific signs to look for signaling the return of Jesus Christ. Those signs are being fulfilled in our generation like never before in history. The prophecy clock counting down to the return of Christ began ticking when Israel became a nation on May 14th, 1948. It ticked faster when Israel gained control of its ancient holy city of Jerusalem in June of 1967.

But Bible prophecy is not sim-

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ply about predicting the future. It is a solemn warning of coming judgment. When He returns, Jesus will divide “the sheep from the goats,” – the sheep being the people who love and follow Him, the goats being the people who don’t. On that Day, He will recompense every person – rewarding those who love Him, punishing those who don’t. To some, this will be the greatest day in history, to others the most terrifying. Which will it be to you? Will you be ready for that Day? Are you ready now?

Reason #8 - He will give you a new life: *“Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.” 2 Corinthians 5:17*

Ever wish you could start over again?

All of us have regrets in life. Things we have done, or realizing who we have become, can create a real sense of shame. Sometimes we feel things are so messed up that they can never be better. Without God and without hope, people turn to alcohol, drugs or excessive materialism to mask the pain. Others develop eating disorders or

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sexual addictions. Tragically, some even turn to suicide.

God doesn't want us to simply mask the pain or try harder in the future. He wants to restore our lives in a way that only He can do - in a miraculous way - by giving us more than a new start. He offers to give us a new life!

The past has passed and it can't be changed. But it can be overcome. It need not cripple your future. Do you feel trapped by your past? Jesus rose from the dead; certainly He's powerful enough to bring you forgiveness, healing and a new life.

Come to Jesus. Afterwards, you may look the same in the mirror, but you'll be different on the inside where it really counts. You'll be fresh, you'll be clean - you'll be alive. Jesus offers you a fresh beginning! Will you take it?

Reason #9 - He will give you freedom: *“Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin.*

So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.” John 8:34-36

We Americans cherish our political and religious freedom. We find slavery abhorrent. None of us would willingly submit to such conditions.

But Jesus was speaking of a different type of freedom that had nothing to do with the type of government in power. True freedom is not the license to do whatever you want, but the power to do what you know is right. Do you have such freedom?

Look around and you'll find

people “enslaved” to pleasure, sex, money, prestige, gadgets, and all kinds of other

“things.” While not necessarily inherently wrong, something becomes terribly out of whack in our lives if these things control us. Never forget: sin makes big promises now, but doesn't reveal the price-tag until later. Temptation is a trap that isn't sprung until after we take the bait.

And once trapped, life begins to spiral downward out of control. Perhaps you've seen this in your parents or others who are now paying a steep price for choices they made years ago. Perhaps you already see it in yourself. Do you want to escape? Come to Jesus - the greatest Liberator of all time!

Reason #10 - He is true:

“What is truth?” Pontius Pilate, John 18:38 - “I am... the truth.” Jesus, John 14:6

I'm often asked why I became a Christian. My answer is simple: it's true.

All of the reasons I've provided have been meaningful to me, but down deep, even if none of the other reasons existed, this would be the rock upon which I stand. I know in my heart of hearts that Jesus is who He said He was. I can't be dishonest with myself, I know too much to not follow Him.

Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father but through Me” (John 14:6). At another time, He said, “If you continue in My word, ... you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free” (John 8:31-32).

This is not simply “my truth.” It is the Truth. Ignore it and dismiss it at your own peril. Jesus made astounding claims to be the Son of God who came to save

this world from its sin. Either these claims are true or they aren't. I believe they are.

Jesus backed up these astounding claims in ways no one else ever has: His life was predicted by prophets hundreds of years before His birth. He performed mighty miracles of compassion in healing the sick. He demonstrated power over nature. He physically rose from the dead. Either these things happened or they didn't. I believe they did.

The Christian faith can pass the Truth test. Faith in Jesus meets the deepest needs of the human heart and, at the same time, satisfies the minds of those who honestly think it through. I hope you will!

“I can't Help You”

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One Solitary Life --

Here is a young man who was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another village. He worked in a carpenter shop until he was 30, and then for three years he was an itinerant preacher. He never wrote a book, He never held an office. He never owned a home. He never had a family. He never went to college. He never put his foot inside a big city. He never traveled 200 miles from the place he was born. He never did one of the things that usually accompany greatness. He had no credentials but himself.

While he was still a young man, the tide of public opinion turned against him. He his friends ran away. He was

turned over to his enemies.

He went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed to a cross between two thieves.

While he was dying his executioners gambled led for the only piece of property he had on earth, and that was his coat. When he was dead, he was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend. Nineteen centuries wide have come and gone, and today he is the central figure of the human race, and the leader of the column of progress.

I am far within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that ever sailed, and all the parliaments that ever sat, and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man upon this earth as has that ONE SOLITARY LIFE.
- Anonymous

I say it again - “If you have not met me, you have missed little. If you have not met my Savior, you have missed everything.”



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