

## Introduction:

There is a book called, "Why I Left". Men gave their reasons for leaving their denomination and coming to the "church of Christ". It got me to thinking, "Why I left..." and became a Christian. It is an important decision. Background, parents obeyed, started going to classes, gained knowledge and understanding.

### I) HINDRANCES.

#### A) Sacrifices I would have to make.

1. Getting up to go to services, missing ballgames. Etc.,
2. Not getting to sow my wild oats, *Matthew 16:26*.

#### B) I had plenty of time.

1. Religion is for old folks and zealots.
2. I was OK morally speaking.

#### C) My own imperfections.

1. I knew there would be a need for change and what if I failed.
2. A lot of people want to wait for perfection and then obey.
  - a. *2 Corinthians 5:17* it is the beginning of a new life.
  - b. When we sin we can go to the Father, *1 John 2:1*.

### II) REASONS FOR OBEYING

#### A) I have a soul.

1. Two choices - just an animal or a physical being with a soul.
  - a. *1 Thessalonians 5:23* and *Matthew 10:28*
2. Which means that life does not end at the grave.
3. The importance of the soul is greater than the body.

**B) I believed that God exist, *Hebrews 11:6*.**

1. Two choices - God exist or God does not exist.
2. Facts - we exist, the universe is complex and shows a design, *Hebrews 3:4*.
3. Not only does God exist, He also loves us, *John 3:16*.

**C) I understood the difference between right and wrong.**

1. Moral training requires a standard of truth.
2. No God means no standard, a standard means that God exists.
  - a. *John 17:17* and *1:14* the source of truth and revelation.
3. This defines sin as transgression of Gods law, *1 John 3:4*.
  - a. All of us have done this, *Romans 3:23*.

**D) I understood the facts of death and judgment.**

1. *Hebrews 9:27* all of us will die.
2. All of us will face the judgment, *John 5:28-29*.

3. *2 Corinthians 5:10* on that basis I would be condemned.
4. There is hope, *Romans 6:23*.

**E) I understood the grace and love of God in Jesus.**

1. The plan of salvation, *Ephesians 3:11*.
2. *Ephesians 2:4-9* outside of Christ I was lost.
3. By looking at Acts I understood how to become a Christian.

**Conclusion:**

I believe in being happy. This is a personal choice each one must make. How about you?