

## **Why I Became A Christian**

There is a book titled, "Why I Left." In this book various men gave their reasons for leaving a denomination to become a member of Christ's church. There is no more important decision than that which affects the soul. This got me to thinking about my conversion and why I obeyed the Gospel of Christ.

My parents were not members of any religious group until my early teenage years. They started going to Antioch church of Christ in Ohio County, Kentucky. This was a small group of people who met only on Sunday morning. I remember my Mom and Dad walking down the aisle during the invitation song. After a period of time Antioch started services Sunday and Wednesday night. From that point onward, we went every Sunday morning and many of Sunday night services.

After a period of time (probably two or three years), I started thinking about obeying the Gospel. It was not an easy decision as there were a number of reasons for becoming a Christian and some reasons or excuses for not obeying. Sacrifices would have to be made if I became a Christian. Such as getting up on Sunday mornings and going to worship services. Our Sunday mornings before my parent's conversion was a time of work. We had things to do on the farm. It meant having to miss ballgames (I was really big in watching practically any sport that was on television) and some of those games were on Wednesday nights. Besides the possible "sacrifices" I might have to make there was also the fact that I was still young. Religion is for old folks and zealots, or so I thought. At eighteen years of age I had plenty of time to become a Christian. I was OK morally speaking so waiting a number of years seemed like a good idea. I was getting ready to go to college and there were other things more important to me than obeying the Gospel. There was also the "pressure" of being different and not knowing a whole lot about the Bible. These ideas and others were my excuses for not obeying the Gospel.

At the same time, I realized there were reasons to become a Christian. Despite the efforts of a few teachers in teaching evolution, I realized that I had

a soul. That makes us different from anything else God created. Unlike our physical body our soul is eternal. Which means it will exist after my physical body dies. It was really in my best interest to make sure my soul would go and be with God after I die. Which gets me to another point, I believe God exists. You see God fits into this picture because without a Creator there cannot be a creation. "For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things is God." (Hebrews 3:4). Our very existence and the complexity of the Universe means there has to be a designer and creator. There are only two possible reasons we exist. One is God created us and the other is the universe created us. To me the more logical conclusion is with God being our Creator.

Then there was also a thing called morality, right and wrong. To say something, for instance, murder or stealing or lying is wrong, there has to be a reason it is wrong. This is where God comes in again. No God means there is nothing right or wrong. This also gets me to another point, death and judgement. Since I believe in God, acknowledge having a soul, and there is a moral code, I understand there is a judgement to face on the other side of the grave. "And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment," (Hebrews 9:27). When I say some things are either right or wrong, I mean some things are sinful. The outcome of that judgement would either be heaven or hell. Folks, I did not want to go to eternal punishment. The only way to go to heaven was to do what God says. I had to accept the Gospel of Jesus Christ and be baptized for the remission of my sins. Otherwise I would be lost.

If you have not obeyed the Gospel, I hope you will think about this decision you are making. The decision to wait and risk going to hell is a very dangerous. No one knows how much time they have in this life. People die at all ages, the young as well as the old. It is your life, your soul, and your eternal well being we are talking about. Hopefully you will decide to live with hope and become a Christian as soon as possible. - - Dennis Tucker