

The background of the image is a close-up, high-angle shot of dark blue water. The water's surface is covered in a dense pattern of small, concentric ripples and waves, creating a textured, undulating appearance. The lighting is somewhat dim, giving the water a deep, almost blackish-blue hue. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

Why Did I Obey the Gospel?

# Why Did I Obey the Gospel?

- People occasionally need reasons to do the right thing, or motivation to get out of their inertia.
  - A child at bedtime may wonder why he must go to bed early - Eph. 6:1
  - An employee may ask the supervisor why he must do a particular task - Titus 2:10
  - Citizens wonder why they must send all that the IRS demands - Rom. 13:7
  - Criminals see no reason to obey the law - Rom. 13:1-4

# Why Did I Obey the Gospel?

- Likewise many need to be motivated to obey Divine authority
- Most folks do not realize that non-Christians are subject to the commands of God.
- Sinners are subject to the law of God
  - 2Thes. 1:8-9
  - Acts 17:30 - “Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, 31 because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world...”



# Because I Believe God Is

- Heb. 11:6 - “But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him”
- 2Thes. 2:9-12 - “The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, 10 and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. 11 And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, 12 that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”

# Because I Believe God Is

- Acts 17:24-29 - “God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. 25 Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things. 26 And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, 27 so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; 28 for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.' 29 Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man's devising.”



# Because I Believe God Is

- Rom. 1:20-26 - “For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, 21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Professing to be wise, they became fools, 23 and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man- and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. 24 Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, 25 who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. 26 For this reason God gave them up to vile passions.”

# Because I Believe God Is

- The alternative to believing God is:
  - Belief in the very flawed and inherently unobservable theory of evolution
  - Belief in the eternal nature of temporary matter and energy
  - Belief in the absence of a system of morality or truth with any stability
  - Belief that man is just an animal with a higher order of cognition
- Given the choice, I believe that God is.



# Because I Believe God Is

- Heb. 12:25 - “See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven”
- Matt. 10:28 - “And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”



# Because I Believe God Has Spoken

- If the Bible was written only by men, it is truly a remarkable document.
  - 40+ authors, 1600 years, from fishermen to kings
  - Themes and ideas unparalleled in ancient or contemporary literature
  - Historical accuracy more uncannily accurate than any other document in history, including historical documents
  - Reflects knowledge and understanding of writers far exceeding the prejudices and misconceptions of their own times

# Because I Believe God Has Spoken

- If it was only written by men:
  - How can it be so unified in purpose and plan?
  - How can it contain detailed prophetic descriptions of events which occurred 700-1000 years after being written?
  - How can it contain so high a standard of morality that most of its heroes, protagonists, and even its writers are embarrassed or condemned by what it says about them
  - How could all of these men have risen above the prejudice and ignorance of their day?



# Because I Believe God Has Spoken

- Sound reasoning demands that I believe that the Bible is God's communication to humankind
  - 2Peter 1:19-21 - "And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; 20 knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, 21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit."

# Because I Believe God Has Spoken

- Gal. 3:23-26 - “But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed. 24 Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. 25 But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor. 26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.”
- Heb. 1:1-3 - “God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; 3 who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.”



# Because I Believe God Has Spoken

- Acts 17:30-31 - “Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, 31 because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”
- Mark 16:15-16 - “And He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 “He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.’”
- Luke 6:46 - “But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do the things which I say?”

# Because I Believe God Knows Me

- Psalm 147:4-5 - “He counts the number of the stars; He calls them all by name. 5 Great is our Lord, and mighty in power; His understanding is infinite.”
- Matt. 10:29-31 - “Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father's will. 30 But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. 31 Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.”



# Because I Believe God Knows Me

- God has a special place for the names of the righteous
  - Luke 10:20 - “Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven.”
  - Phil. 4:3 - “And I urge you also, true companion, help these women who labored with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the Book of Life.”

# Because I Believe God Knows Me

- Nothing is hidden from His gaze
  - Heb. 4:12-13 - “For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. 13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.”



# Because I Believe God Knows Me

- I will be held personally responsible if I fail to live up to my own potential for good
  - Psalm 139:1-4, 7, 11-12 - “O LORD, You have searched me and known me. 2 You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off. 3 You comprehend my path and my lying down, And are acquainted with all my ways. 4 For there is not a word on my tongue, But behold, O LORD, You know it altogether... 7 Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? ... 11 If I say, ‘Surely the darkness shall fall on me,’ Even the night shall be light about me; 12 Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You, But the night shines as the day; The darkness and the light are both alike to You.”

# Because I Believe God Loves Me

- I could make a good case to argue that He shouldn't even be concerned with an insignificant mote like me
  - Psalm 8:3-6 - “When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained, 4 What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him? 5 For You have made him a little lower than the angels, And You have crowned him with glory and honor. 6 You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his fee”



# Because I Believe God Loves Me

- I have sinned against Him
  - Rom. 3:23 - “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”
- Nothing good I can do will ever approach His glory
  - Titus 3:3-5 - “For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another. 4 But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, 5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit”

# Because I Believe God Loves Me

- But the great wonder of it all is He loves me!
  - Luke 15:1-6 - “Then all the tax collectors and the sinners drew near to Him to hear Him. 2 And the Pharisees and scribes complained, saying, ‘This Man receives sinners and eats with them.’ 3 So He spoke this parable to them, saying: 4 ‘What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it? 5 And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. 6 And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!’”



# Because I Believe God Loves Me

- 1Peter 2:24-25 - “Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness--by whose stripes you were healed. 25 For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.”
- 2Cor. 8:9 - “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.”
- Rom. 5:8 - “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”
- John 3:16 - “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

# Because I Believe God Loves Me

- If I believe God loves me, then I must respond to His love.
  - 2Cor. 5:14 - “For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; 15 and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.”
  - 1John 4:19 - “We love Him because He first loved us.”
- We do things out of love that we would do for no other reason.



# Because I Believe God Loves Me

- 1John 4:10-11 - “In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.”
- John 12:32-3 - “‘And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself.’ 33 This He said, signifying by what death He would die.”
- 1John 5:1-3 - “Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him. 2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. 3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.”
- John 14:15 - “If you love Me, keep My commandments.”

# Why Did I Obey the Gospel?

- I have offered four powerful reasons for obeying God.
- Do you have better reasons for not obeying God today?