

Why Did I Obey the Gospel?

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

- A. People occasionally need reasons to do the right thing, or motivation to get out of their inertia.
 - 1. A child at bedtime may wonder why he must go to bed early - Eph. 6:1
 - 2. An employee may ask the supervisor why he must do a particular task - Titus 2:10
 - 3. Citizens wonder why they must send all the IRS demands - Rom. 13:7
 - 4. Criminals see no reason to obey the law - Rom. 13:1-4
 - 5. Likewise many need to be motivated to obey Divine authority
 - a. Most folks do not realize that non-Christians are subject to the commands of God.
 - b. "I'm not a member of the church, so I don't have to listen to God."
 - c. Sinners are subject to the law of God - 2Thes. 1:8-9; Acts 17:30

I. BECAUSE I BELIEVE GOD IS

- A. Heb. 11:6 - There is not much reason to obey an imaginary God. Such a God has no power or authority.
 - 1. Humankind needs something to worship - 2Thes. 2:9-12
 - a. We know instinctively that we didn't get here by ourselves
 - b. We know there are mysteries in this world that cannot be explained by science or human reasoning
 - c. We need to know the why and how - Acts 17:24-29
 - 2. But folks today reject belief in God, determined that He is something dreamed up by ignorant, gullible ancestors. They trade the moral compass of the ancients for the ethical structures of today.
 - a. How has this improved this world?
 - b. The results of their reasoning - Rom. 1:20-26
- B. The alternative
 - 1. Belief in the very flawed and inherently unobservable theory of evolution
 - 2. Belief in the eternal nature of temporary matter and energy
 - 3. Belief in the absence of a system of morality or truth with any stability
 - 4. Belief that man is just an animal with a higher order of cognition
- C. Given the choice, I believe that God is.
 - 1. If I believe that God is, I will obey because He is an all-knowing, all-powerful person who can reward me with a higher level of existence or destroy me if I disobey Him - Heb. 12:25; Matt. 10:28

II. BECAUSE I BELIEVE GOD HAS SPOKEN

- A. If the Bible was written only by men, it is truly a remarkable document.
 - 1. 40+ authors, 1600 years, from fishermen to kings
 - 2. Themes and ideas unparalleled in ancient or contemporary literature
 - 3. Historical accuracy more uncannily accurate than any other document in history, including historical documents

4. Reflects knowledge and understanding of writers far exceeding the prejudices and misconceptions of their own times
- B. If it was only written by men:
 1. How can it be so unified in purpose and plan?
 2. How can it contain detailed prophetic descriptions of events which occurred 700-1000 years after being written?
 3. 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
 4. How could all of these men have risen above the prejudice and ignorance of their day?
- C. Sound reasoning demands that I believe that the Bible is God's communication to humankind - 2Peter 1:19-21; Gal. 3:23-26; Heb. 1:1-3; Acts 17:30-31; Mark 16:15-16; Luke 6:46

III. BECAUSE I BELIEVE GOD KNOWS ME

- A. Psalm 147:4-5 - He has names for all the stars (143 billion stars for everyone)
 1. Matt. 10:29-31 - He knows the number of hairs on my head (110,000)
 2. God has a special place for the names of the righteous
 - a. Luke 10:20; Phil. 4:3
 3. Nothing is hidden from His gaze - Heb. 4:12-13
- B. If I believe that God knows me and demands of me my very best, which He knows very well what it is,
 1. Then I will be held personally responsible if I fail to live up to my own potential for good - Psalm 139:1-12
 2. And I know I will never escape the consequences of not obeying God

IV. BECAUSE I BELIEVE GOD LOVES ME

- A. 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
 1. Why should He Love Me?
 - a. I have sinned against Him - Rom. 3:23
 - b. Nothing good I can do will ever approach His glory - Titus 3:3-5
 - c. I am an unimportant, un-noteworthy part of His creation
- B. But the great wonder of it all is He loves me!
 1. Luke 15:1-6; 1Peter 2:24-25; 2Cor. 8:9; Rom. 5:8; John 3:16
- C. If I believe God loves me, then I must respond to His love - 2Cor. 5:14
 1. The only response to love offered is love returned - 1John 4:19
 2. We do things out of love that we would do for no other reason.
 - a. Love will send a woman into a burning building to get her baby.
 - b. Love will send a man into the path of a vehicle to save his child
 - c. Love will keep a man at a job that is killing him to feed his family.
 3. 1John 4:10-11; John 12:32-33; 1John 5:1-3; John 14:15
- D. I have offered four powerful reasons for obeying God.
 1. Do you have better reasons for not obeying God today?