

I'm a Christian because...

I'm a Pragmatist

Being a pragmatist, I'm mainly interested in the raw nature of the real presence of a living God. If the Truth remains academic, distant or inaccessible to my heart and soul, I care little. But if that same Truth fills my heart, mind and soul with all the fullness of a peace inexpressible and depth inexhaustible then I *know* it is True. I testify that I, like all who call upon Jesus Christ, have been granted to understand something that cannot be communicated by thought alone, but must mount up on the wings of a new birth to touch the face of God. The foundation of this faith, hope and love is a heart that is inclined to strain toward God. There is no testing, only tasting. There is no arms length appraisal, but only the appetite to drink deeply of His Being. For you have been made by God *for* God.

"Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord:
though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow;
though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool."
- Isaiah 1:18

In the mind of God, there is no understanding apart from experiencing. If you truly wish to understand God, you must experience Him. But at the crux of understanding is the realization of your own need. If you have no sins, then there is nothing to be made white as snow, no experience and therefore no real knowledge to be had. But as soon as we come to the Lord to be relieved of a burden too heavy for our mortal frames to carry, we will have begun to understand.

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom."
- Proverbs 1:7

What is the fear of the Lord? It is the experience of the Truth of His Being that results in awful wonder and terrible joy. But as God says, this alone is the beginning of wisdom. If you truly desire to understand God, He bids you, 'Come!' in humility seeking the forgiveness of all your innumerable and conspicuous sins. Then, in your coming to Him, you will experience the Lord, because it is *through* this knowing of the rich filling of sweet forgiveness that we make contact with the One True God.

The Testimony of God about You:

"None is righteous, no not one;
no one understands; no one seeks for God.
All have turned aside; together they have become worthless;
no one does good, not even one.
Their throat is an open grave;
They use their tongues to deceive.
The venom of asps is under their lips.
Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness.
Their feet are swift to shed blood;
In their paths are ruin and misery,
And the way of peace they have not known.
There is no fear of God before their eyes."
- Romans 3:10-18

The Work of Christ:

"For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might
become the righteousness of God."
- II Corinthians 5:21

God says that the fair return on your sin is death, but that the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. He became a man to live as a man, yet without sin, so that at the cross He could bear the sin of the world. Only at the cross is there practical light and life. Here is where we drink the water of life; it springs from the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. This is where you experience the living God. Only through living in Him will you ever come to know Him. Until then you will remain a tragic bystander subject to the expiration-upon-death of the greatest gift of all-time.

"You make known to me the path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore."
- Psalm 16:11

If you truly seek Him, He will be found by you and you will dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of your life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to know the Truth that only comes by Him.

Repent and Believe.

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