

WHY BELIEVE?

1. Fundamental; Essential. Very misunderstood.
 - a. "must," Heb.11:6.
 - b. "live," Heb.10:38; "walk," II Cor.5:7.
2. World's view (H.L. Menckken)
3. Contrast Jesus' statement Matt.22:37

I. BIBLE DEFINITION

- A. Heb.11:1 (not "evidence", per KJ); "assurance....conviction."
- B. Irrational? Cf. driving to services, farmer; George Washington.

II. WHY BELIEVE ?

- A. Wrong Answers:
 1. **"Everybody knows"** Nose count never determines truth, Matt.7:13-14. Consider effect on college students; home; school. Muslim religion one of fastest growing. More believe Koran.
 2. **"He lives within my heart"** Same in Denominational, Hindu or Muslim heart. Fuels modern "Pluralism." Condemns condemnation of false doctrine, Jer.17:9; Prov.28:6.
 3. **"Experience of grace"** Cf. Doubting Thomas. Not faith! But knowledge Heb.11:1; II Cor.5:7.
 4. **"Just Believe"** (Leap of Faith) Told to, so do it.
 - a. What about those told to believe Koran?
 - b. Define Prejudice; Conclusion before & without facts.
 - c. Define Dishonesty; Lack of love for facts (truth).
 - d. Thus, this "faith" is prejudiced and dishonest, Prov.18:13.
- B. The Right Answer.
 1. **Weigh Evidence** (cf. Scales).
 - a. Evaluate evidence for and against; which weighs more.
 - b. Cf. George Washington. What is the evidence?
 2. Integrity, honesty, love of (truth) facts . Follow wherever.

III. PRODUCING NEW TESTAMENT FAITH

- A. **Apostles Were Different.**
 1. Paul
 - a. Had experience on road to Damascus.
 - b. Why? Acts 26:16 (cf. Acts 22:16).
 2. Apostles Had to See!
 - a. Choosing Matthias Acts 1:21-22; Jn.15:27.
 - b. Apostles were qualified, I Jn.1:1-2.
 - c. Paul defending apostleship, I Cor.9:1.
 - d. Thomas: Refused testimony Jn.20:25. Saw, felt, experienced; then Jn.20:29.
 3. We are to be different Jn.20:29. How? 30-31.
 4. Misconception dilutes the power of the gospel.

B. N.T. Christians

1. Peter's sermon, Acts 2.

PENTECOST – ACTS 2

1. **David saith, v. 25-31**
2. **we all are witnesses, v. 32**
3. **this which ye see and hear, v.3:**

THEREFORE

KNOW ASSUREDLY, v. 36

when they heard this

they were cut to the heart, v. 37

2. Paul Sermon similar, Acts 17
 - a. Accepted the Scriptures. Thessalonica, Acts 17:2-3. Berea, Acts 17:11-12. Cf. Rom.10:17 (but, not "word only")
 - b. Did not accept scripture Athenians, "Poets", Acts 17:28; Nature of God, Acts 17:29. Lystra; God's witnesses, Acts 14:17. Gentiles, Rom.1:20. Evidence so good, "without excuse".

C. **Proof Positive; I Pet.3:15** KJ; Cf. NAS

1. Reasoned, rational defense (cf. Paul in court).
2. I Pet.3:15 Commanded!
3. Can You? (cf. Clinton Hamilton exp.) Must prepare!

IV. CONSEQUENCES

- A. Experience
 1. "Everybody must; Damned if don't." Very emotional, powerful suggestion. Cf. Hypnotism.
 2. Result: They see! Cf. Pentecostals, Mormons.
 3. Effect: Reason, logic no longer has weight. They "know". Cf. "Seeing" Don's monkey tail.
- B. Just Believe
 1. Have been taught to ignore facts. Believe in spite of evidence. Convinced this is the way to "do" Christianity.
 2. Effect: Evidence is immaterial. Justified in ignoring facts.
 3. Cf. Mark Twain's neighbor. Sound familiar?
- C. Weigh Evidence
 1. **Will listen** Acts. 17:11.
 2. **Will be right**, Jn.7:17; Cf. *Marshall*. Cf. II Thess.2:10-11.
 3. **Will teach** Acts 8:4.
 4. **Will stand** II Tim.2:17-19.

CONCLUSION

1. Real answer: Lk.8:15, "good and honest heart." Cf. *NKJ*.
2. Problems in church today. Matter of faith! First first principle.
3. Our responsibility:
 - a. Love the truth, Prov.23:23.
 - b. Follow the truth, *wherever* it leads.
 - c. Obey the truth. Now.

**“Evidence is *nice*
but Christians accept Bible *by faith*,
not by evidence”**

1Pe 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a **living hope through the resurrection** of Jesus Christ from the dead,

**“Conclusions based on evidence
are not of faith”**

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Undermines effectiveness of the Gospel

Encourages close-minded prejudice

Stifles militant defense of Gospel

Weakens resistance to temptation

**RESURRECTION
IS KEYSTONE OF EVIDENCE**

Act 17:31 "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."

Rom 1:4 and **declared to be the Son of God** with power, according to the Spirit of holiness, **by the resurrection** from the dead,