

THE “WHAT CHRISTIAN’S BELIEVE” SERIES

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“WHAT IF?”

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Christian Doctrine, Discipleship, Belief, Faith, Reason

INTRODUCTION

Theme Text

What Comes to Your Mind When you hear the word
“Christian”

Maybe - a nice guy, someone who does good,
maybe someone who's an American.

According to a Barna Research Poll Taken 2000

90% of North Americans say they believe in God.

9.7% said that they had read the Bible.

43% claimed they were born again.

1 out of ever 5 could define what born again meant.

And same ratio 1/5 could explain what biblical salvation was

One man responded to the question “What do Christians believe?”
Said, christains believe in god, Christians do good things and Christian
believe in occasional attend church.”

One Hindu man was asked “what do Christians believe” said “I really don’t know, and I think that my Christian friends don’t know either.” When asked why, he said “Well, the Christian should follow the teachings of Jesus” what is the teachings of Jesus, the man was asked “I really don’t know”

The Title, Term, Name “Christian” has Suffered greatly in Modern Times.

In Our Universities, Our Civic Centers, In Our Morality
The Modern Movement to Secularize Our World is Everywhere.

In the Name of “Political Correctness” “Neutrality” and Here’s the all time casualty
redefinition – Tolerance!

Christians Have Been By and Large Decommissioned
By a liberal, a seeker friendly theology that has Down-Graded God, the Bible, Jesus
Christ and Eternal—————Issues to Options and Flavors.

Our Purpose in the Studies Ahead
Is to Re-Commission You in Your Faith !

To Know What The Bible Teaches – To Know Biblical Doctrine!

That Your Faith is Defendable
That Your Faith is Accurate
That Your Faith is Logical
And That Your Faith is Reasonable

Resulting in a Practical, Powerful and Purposeful Faith

A Faith That According to The Bible

Jude 1:3b

...Finding it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly
for **the faith** which was once and for all delivered to the saints.

There is a rising tide of “secular religions”

And Contemporary Christianity

Appears to have gone Through a Divorce from Biblical Theology
And has married into theories, therapies and psychologies

The Christian Needs Get “Back to the Bible” And know the *reasons* why !!!

1 Peter 3:15 NIV

But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,

Luke 24:13-15

Now behold, two of them were traveling that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was seven miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁴ And they talked together of all these things which had happened. ¹⁵ So it was, while they conversed and reasoned, that Jesus Himself drew near and went with them.

Acts 17:1-3

Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. ² Then Paul, as his custom was, went in to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, ³ explaining and demonstrating that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and saying, “This Jesus whom I preach to you is the Christ.”

Acts 18:19-20a

And he came to Ephesus, and left them there; but he himself entered the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews. ²⁰ When they asked *him* to stay a longer... **they wanted more of the truth!**

WHAT IF...

1.) *Belief and Hope and Faith are Intrinsic to Humanity?*

What If Belief is Intrinsic to Humanity?

1a.) Where would this attribute arise from?

The Ability to Believe

What is Belief

The Oxford 1933 Dictionary

defines Belief as;

A mental or emotional action, or condition or habit, of trusting or the confiding in of a person or thing, to trust in or to rely upon.

To place your determination upon someone or something

What If Hope is Intrinsic to Humanity?

1b.) Why would mankind need hope?

I Ask You,
Why Is Hope so Important to You?

Because The Almighty God
Wants you to know and have hope.

Without Hope Every Human Being Dies – *in an instant!*

Hope – The Prospect of Being Rescued

That's Why the Return of Jesus Christ is Referred to as the Blessed Hope,
or Blessed Rescue!

The Bible Says That Mankind is Lost!

Does Mankind Act Lost?

It does – because it is lost and lonely

The Great Apostle and Pastor Paul Said;

1 Thessalonians 2:19-20

For what *is* our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? *Is it* not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming? ²⁰ For you are our glory and joy.

1 Timothy 1:1

Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ, by the commandment of God our Savior and the Lord Jesus Christ, our hope,

Romans 8:17-24a

Since we are his children, we will possess the blessings he keeps for his people, and we will also possess with Christ what God has kept for him; for if we share Christ's suffering, we will also share his glory. ¹⁸ I consider that what we suffer at this present time cannot be compared at all with the glory that is going to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ All of creation waits with eager longing for God to reveal his children. ²⁰ For creation was condemned to lose its purpose, not of its own will, but because God willed it to be so. Yet there was the hope ²¹ because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. ²³ Not only *that*, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. ²⁴ For we were saved in this hope

What If *Faith* is Intrinsic to Humanity?

1c.) Every human being has faith and lives to express it

The Oxford 1933 Dictionary

What is Your “Object” of Faith?

The Bible Says;

Hebrews 11:1 KJV

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for,
the evidence of things not seen.

Hebrews 11:1 CEV

Faith makes us sure of what we hope for
and gives us proof of what we cannot see.

Hebrews 11:1 GNT

To have faith is to be sure of the things we hope for,
to be certain of the things we cannot see.

Is Your Faith, In What You Esteem Worthy, of Your Devotion?
Is Your Faith, In What You Esteem Worthy, of Your Devotion?
Is Your Faith, In What You Esteem Worthy, of Your Devotion?
Is Your Faith, In What You Esteem Worthy, of Your Devotion?

If It's in a Car – it's going to rust!
If It's in a House – it's going to eaten!
If It's in a Million – it's not enough!
If It's in your Youth – you're going to wear out!

WHAT IF...

2.) *Life continues beyond the grave?*

What Insights do we have in this Life
About the grave and death with the Bible?

Only the Words of Some Other Man's Experience.
Some Other's Hallucination or Interpretation.

*What If - Life continues **beyond** the grave?*

2a.) *Where should mankind go after death?*

Who or What Would be Responsible for That?

If we are going to make up our own ending,
Then what is like?

*How is someone rewarded, and for what?
What would death's door open up to?*

Everyone Has an Opinion on This
But Who's Right?

Matthew 12:39-40

But He answered and said to them, “An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. ⁴⁰ For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

*What If - Life continues **beyond** the grave?*

2b.) What are a few indicators that there's a life beyond

The answer is closer than you think

Man's a Physical Being
Man's a Psychological Being
Man's a Spiritual Being

If You're Banking on Just One of These Existences – *You're Wrong Already!*
We Know That Man has a Soul, an Ethereal, (Invisible) Existence
But What of Man's Deeper Existence?

Mankind is a Spiritual Being

2c.) Why would you gamble with eternity

We now know, through the sciences

that time is a physical property that it is subject to the laws of physics that it is slowing down. That time will someday cease. If left alone, Time will eventually run out.

There Are “Hints” that Eternity is Real

Again, The Bible Says;

John 11:23-29

That Jesus said to Martha, “Your brother will rise again.” ²⁴ Martha said to Him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.” ²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. ²⁶ And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?” ²⁷ She said to Him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.” ²⁸ And when she had said these things, she went her way and secretly called Mary her sister, saying, “The Teacher has come and is calling for you.” ²⁹ As soon as she heard *that*, she arose quickly and came to Him.

John 6:37-41

All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out. ³⁸ For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. ³⁹ This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day. ⁴⁰ And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.” ⁴¹ The Jews then complained about Him, because He said, “I am the bread which came down from heaven.”

WHAT IF...

3.) ***Man has been given an opportunity to change?***

Man has been given an opportunity to change

3a.) ***What do you think about change?***

Change – Spiritual Evolution

Is the lifestyle of the christian

Mark 9:24

Immediately the father of the child cried out and said to Jesus, with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!"

CHANGE!

Matthew 9:19-22

So Jesus arose and followed him, and so *did* His disciples. ²⁰ And suddenly, a woman who had a flow of blood for twelve years came from behind and touched the hem of His garment. ²¹ For she said to herself, "If only I may touch His garment, I shall be made well." ²² But Jesus turned around, and when He saw her He said, "Be of good cheer, daughter; your faith has made you well." And the woman was made well from that hour.

CHANGE!

Mark 5:1-20

Then they came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gadarenes. ² And when He had come out of the boat, immediately there met Him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit, ³ who had *his* dwelling among the tombs; and no one could bind him, not even with chains, ⁴ because he had often been bound with shackles and chains. And the chains had been pulled apart by him, and the shackles broken in pieces; neither could anyone tame him. ⁵ And always, night and day, he was in the mountains and in the tombs, crying out and cutting himself with stones. ⁶ When he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and worshiped Him. ⁷ And he cried out with a loud voice and said, "What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I implore You by God that You do not torment me." ⁸ For He said to him, "Come out of the man, unclean spirit!" ⁹ Then He asked him, "What *is* your name?" And he answered, saying, "My name *is* Legion; for we are many." ¹⁰ Also he begged Him earnestly that He would not send them out of the country. ¹¹ Now a large herd of swine was feeding there near the mountains. ¹² So all the demons begged Him, saying, "Send us to the swine, that we may enter them." ¹³ And at once Jesus gave them permission. Then the unclean spirits went out and entered the swine (there were about two thousand); and the herd ran violently down the steep place into the sea, and drowned in the sea. ¹⁴ So those who fed the swine fled, and they told *it* in the city and in the country. And they went out to see what it was that had happened. ¹⁵ Then they came to Jesus, and saw the one who *had been* demon-possessed and had the legion, sitting and clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. ¹⁶ And those who saw it told them how it happened to him who *had been* demon-possessed, and about the swine. ¹⁷ Then they began to plead

with Him to depart from their region. ¹⁸ And when He got into the boat, he who had been demon-possessed begged Him that he might be with Him. ¹⁹ However, Jesus did not permit him, but said to him, “Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you.” ²⁰ And he departed and began to proclaim in Decapolis all that Jesus had done for him; and all marveled.

CHANGE!

Man has been given an opportunity to change

3b.) Would you change your life if you could?

2 Peter 2:22

...the true proverb says: “A dog returns to his own vomit,” and, “a pig, having been washed, returns again to wallow in the mud.”

WHY

***Because a Dog’s Do That Kind of Stuff
Pigs Love the Mud.***

Dogs Cannot Change into a Bird
Pigs Cannot Become a Fish

***But a Human Being, Created by The Almighty God
Can Return to his Original Place...***

A Child of God

Ezekiel 11:19-20 NIV

I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them; I will remove from them their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh. **20** Then they will follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. They will be my people, and I will be their God.

Jack – I’m like that dog, that pig. I can’t change!

Ezekiel 36:25-27 NIV

Thus saith the Lord, **I will sprinkle clean water on you**, and you will be clean; **I will cleanse you** from all your impurities and from all your idols. **²⁶ I will give you a new heart** and **I will put a new spirit in you**; **I will remove from you your heart of stone**, **I will give you a heart of flesh.** **²⁷ And I will put my Spirit in you** and **I will move you to follow my decrees** and be careful to keep my laws.

3c.) **Will you exercise your option?**

I can change the landscape by using a tractor

But I must willingly to **get on to the tractor**

But I must willingly **start the engine**

But I must willingly **put it into gear**

But I must willingly **use my faculties**

God Will Never Force You

But he can be pretty persuasive

THE PERSONAL APPLICATION

Where are You Tonight?