

Why I Became a Christian

Lesson by Mark Householder & Edited by Mark Hatfield

Introduction

1. Why

A question word - it begs an answer.
Indicates a reason
Raison d'etre = <Fre. Reason for being
For what (pourquoi) indicates a choice.

2. I

First person singular!
This means I & I alone!
So...that choice was personal.
No one could choose for me!

3. Became

I was not born a Christian.
No automatic salvation.
No universal salvation, even if the offer is universal.
c.f. A call goes out to come to a banquet yet not all accept the invitation.
Ex. Analogy of carte blanche: you can extend an invitation - is that the same as one attending?!

4. a

One; singular.
I can't decide for others!
Nor they for me!
There is no proxy here!

5. Christian

The name I wear.
The label I have chosen.
The title I must (given charge to) keep!
To maintain, to hold on to.
To guard; to tend after.
c.f. Bro. Hubert's lesson.

Body

Now...here are the reasons:

1. There is a God!

The maker of the universe is Jehovah and HE is almighty and deserving of all honor, glory & reverence! Amen.

2. Mankind sinned and was separated from God.

God is light. In Him is no darkness.
Sin separated man from God.
It was spiritual death and impending physical death.
Note: the tantalizing lie - "You will not surely die!" Since physical death didn't come immediately, this is a very seductive aspect of Satan's wiles.
Through this, paradise was lost.
Sin entered the world through one man.

3. A plan of redemption was needed.

Just as sin entered the world through one man, so salvation is brought by one man; Jesus the Christ!
Ex. Noah - ark - God saves
Moses - exodus & wandering - God saves

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Christ - the current age - God saves

The point is obvious: God provides the means of salvation in all times!
The book of Judges says that the Lord delivered.

4. The law is the schoolmaster

The term schoolmaster indicates not only the teacher but the one in charge of the school.
The thing of the O.T. (the law) were written for our edification; for our education.
The examples were to allude to (point to and imply) the new covenant and the coming of Yeshua, the messiah.
So...we now know that we are by nature sinful and unclean and in need of a divine plan of salvation.

5. Jesus is Emmanuel! He is the incarnate word!

Jesus came to earth. He was the incarnate logos (word).
He is part of the Godhead.
He is God with us.
As such, he is worthy of our honor, glory & praise.

1. I realized that there is a God.

Psa. 53:1

2. I knew that Jesus is the Christ, God's son.

Jn. 3:16
Mt. 16:13-20

3. I found that I was sinful by nature.

There's a myth that if you're tempted or persecuted, you're guilty. Even Christ was tempted!
Ro. 8:4 Sinful by nature...
Lk. 5:8
Pr. 14:12; 16:25 A way that seemeth right...

4. I came to find out that I was not to be condemned for Adam's sin but for my own - and surely that is enough.

Jas. 1:14
Ro. 3:20, 23
Isa. 64:6 Our deeds are like filthy rags!

5. I felt there had to be something better.

The way I was raised - Sundays, holidays...

6. I realized that the choice was mine to make & mine alone.

Mt. 6:24 "You're gonna have to serve somebody."

7. I already understood that Jesus was the only way.

Psa. 3:8
Mt. 7:13-14
Jn. 14:6
Col 2:9-10
Heb 1:8

To reject Jesus is to reject God who sent him. Fathers, how would you feel if your sons were maltreated!?

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***. The culminating act was to accept Christ, which I did.

For as many of you who have put on Christ...

Ro. 6:1 ff Read entire chapter.

Gal. 3:26-28

Ac. 2:38

Eph. 1:7 contact with his blood

I Pe. 3:21 "...baptism doth now save you..."

Gal. 4:28-31 We are children of the promise.

9. I'm to be prepared.

To tell my story.

To defend my beliefs.

To defend the truth.

Ac. 17:10-12 The Bereans were of more noble character...

*** If nothing else, we are to and can do this!

I Co. 9:27, 10:12 take heed

***You can teach one thing to many people! Isn't that manageable, after all!?!

Jn. 9:1-34 The blind man - what was his story?

1. There will be difficulties.

Good people (sometimes) fail = sin, = fall short of their own goals.

Wicked people (sometimes) succeed = do good, = accomplish their own goals

Consider some of the challenges that might beset you

Ostracization, loss of job, home, reputation, \$, etc.

Ex. Juggler with plates.

2. Fill your hearts with good!

Be careful of what we put into our hearts

Ph. 4:8 "Whatsoever things are true, just,..."

Mt. 12:34-35 "Out of the abundance of the heart, a man speaketh."

3. What is our duty, then!

I Pe. 2:17 "... fear God, honor the king."

Ecc. 12:13-14 "...fear God and keep his commandments..."

Psa. 4:4 "Stand in awe, and sin not..."