

## 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 I Pet. 3:15; 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. If 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. Obey the truth. Now.