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Why Are You Convinced of Christianity?

Interviewing Tom Woodward

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1. What one line of evidence, more than any other, persuaded you that Christianity is true?

I began investigating Christianity as a feisty agnostic ex-Presbyterian in my freshman year at Princeton. I was busy persuading Christian students of the truth of my scientific (agnostic) view of the universe. As I interacted with students and alumni on campus, I saw for the first time what biblical Christianity is. Gradually a massive "conglomerate line of evidence" emerged that pointed to the truth of Christianity. There were several strands to this line of evidence, centering on Christ and his answer to the sin-and-death problem.

Then a Princeton graduate came to my dorm and led a Bible study. I became gradually convinced of three things. First, I had badly fallen short of my own moral standards. Second, Christ had tremendous credibility as the Jewish Messiah who fulfilled the amazing Isaiah 53 prophecy, dying in our place for our sins. Third, as I read the New Testament, I was slowly



persuaded that he actually did triumph over death as he predicted. So Christ's offer of eternal life rang true. He had (and has) the answer to free us from the fear of death. In May of 1969 I embraced Him as my Lord and Messiah.

The one thing I was still struggling with after my decision was the area of science-and-faith, and specifically the theory of evolution.

I was still a convinced (Christian) Darwinist after coming to faith. It was months later, after digging into the scientific evidence, that I became convinced that neo-Darwinism was more myth than reality.

2. Why does God allow there to be so many questions about what is and is not true about matters of faith? Why doesn't He make truth so self-evident that everyone would believe? Why doesn't He shout from heaven and provide skeptics with some miraculous manifestation of His existence?

God *has* provided a miraculous manifestation of His existence and power in the eye-witnessed accounts of Christ raised from the dead. Much as a modern scientist makes 'daring predictions' to strengthen his theory, Christ said that his rising from the dead would vindicate his claim to be mankind's Messiah/Savior. Naturalistic explanations fall flat when closely examined.

Even if God did supply more spectacular miracles today, men might become calloused and 'blow off' such evidence, just as they did in Christ's day.

The French mathematician and scientist, Blaise Pascal, in his book *Pensees*, wrote, "But God doesn't remain completely hidden; He is both hidden and revealed." In other words, God has left a balance between some very good evidence that is available for

anyone who wants to check it out, but not so much that we are compelled, or would be irrational to doubt Christianity (such as doubting that the earth revolves around the sun).

"If there were no obscurity," wrote Pascal, "man would not feel his corruption: if there were no light man could not hope for a cure." He later added that "there is enough light for those who desire only to see, and enough darkness for those of a contrary disposition." Pascal hit the nail on the head!

3. Does Christ and Christian faith, truly meet your deepest needs?

There is a deep satisfaction within the beautiful family of Christian believers. We have a compelling "reason for existence" which rings true at every level, and a hope for an eternal relationship with Christ. But he doesn't leave it there. He adopts us into his very family, and lavishes his infinite, unchangeable love on us.

The Westminster Confession says that the chief end of man is to "glorify God and enjoy Him forever." In *The Last Battle (Chronicles of Narnia)*, C. S. Lewis wrote: "But for them it was only the beginning of the real story. All their life in this world and all their adventures in Narnia had only been the cover and the title page: now at last they were beginning Chapter One of the Great Story, which no one on earth has read: which goes on for ever: in which every chapter is better than the one before."

4. Do you ever have serious doubts about the reality of Jesus or wonder if Christianity is just a crutch?

I have no serious doubts about the reality of Jesus. I see a daily flow of new confirmation that the decision to trust Christ was the wisest decision I've ever made. In college, I had a few ripples of doubt but encountered fantastic help from the writings and work of F. F. Bruce, John Stott, C. S. Lewis, John Warwick Montgomery, and Josh McDowell.

More Evidence in Defense and Confirmation of the Christian Faith