

I BELIEVE BECAUSE...

Introduction

- 1) Why do you **believe** in God? The Bible? Why do you **believe** it to be real and true?
- 2) We depend on our **five senses** – hearing, seeing, touching, smelling, tasting
 - a) These senses provide information for us to examine what is real and factual
 - b) This information will come from many different sources that must be examined
 - c) Jesus encouraged using one's senses to understand the truth (Mk. 4:9; Lk. 24:36-43; Jn. 20:27)
- 3) It is also true that our senses can be deceived (Acts 8:9-11)
 - a) We must ask questions, consider the source, examine the context, and desire the truth
 - b) We can even deceive ourselves by convincing ourselves that something is true that is not (Gal. 6:7-8)
- 4) Consider how you came to believe in God and why you believe today.

I) I Believe Because...My Parents Taught Me

- A) Children should be taught by their parents (Deut. 4:9; 6:6-7; Josh. 24:15; Gen. 18:19)
 - 1) Children will naturally trust and believe what their parents say
- B) Parents can give, intentionally or unintentionally, false information to their children
 - 1) These parents may themselves be misinformed or deceived
- C) It is very important for parents to teach what is true (Eph. 6:4)
 - 1) A child's obedience and learning must be based on a truthful and honest upbringing that is based on the word of God (2 Tim. 1:5; 3:14-15; Prov. 22:6)
 - 2) A child should grow into an intelligent adult who will always love and seek the truth

II) I Believe Because...A Preacher/Teacher/Friend Taught Me

- A) We receive an enormous amount of information from other trusted individuals
 - 1) Earthly information is learned from friends, teachers, professionals, etc.
 - 2) It is our responsibility to determine the accuracy of what we are told (Jn. 4:39-40)
- B) Religious information is gained from public and private preaching/teaching (Acts 8:5-6, 30-35; 20:20)
 - 1) God intends for His word to be passed on from individual to individual (2 Tim. 2:2)
 - 2) We should want to believe those we know that love and care about the truth (Jn. 4:39; Lk. 24:11; Mk. 16:11, 14)

III) I Believe Because...God Has Spoken

- A) All truth concerning our purpose, life, and destiny is based in God's word (2 Pet. 1:3)
- B) God speaks to us today through the Old and New Testaments
 - 1) OT – for our learning and example (Rom. 15:4; 1 Cor. 10:11)
 - 2) NT – revelation of Christ today unto salvation (Rom. 1:16; Heb. 1:2)
- C) Divinely revealed truth is the standard by which we are to judge the truthfulness of all other information given to us (Jn. 4:39-42; Acts 17:11)
 - 1) Where I came from (Matt. 19:4), why I am here (Eccl. 12:13), and where I am going (Jn. 5:28-29)
 - 2) Must not be deceived by human wisdom that amends or rejects divine revelation
- D) This reason for faith is the only true and definitive reason (Jn. 4:39-42; 1 Thess. 2:13)

Conclusion

There are many accounts of how people came to hear and accept the truth of God in Christ Jesus. All must ultimately **believe** because of what God has said – true **faith** comes from hearing the word of God (Jn. 20:30-31; Rom. 10:17). Do you believe?