

Is It Sensible To Believe In The Claims Of Christianity?

Quote “*religion is a gigantic fraud.*” The Thinkers Club, San Diego.

“Religious beliefs are against common sense. There are no angels, devils, heaven, hell, ghosts, witches or miracles, these superstitious beliefs are promoted for the purpose of making the gullible believe that by paying money to the priest class they will be favoured by one of the gods. There is nothing supernatural nothing contrary to natural law.”

Often believers in Christianity are accused of “*assassinating their brains,*” because they believe in the inspiration of the Christian Bible, the miracles and the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

People assume that the Christian belief is based upon ignorance and is a blind faith.

In reality the very opposite is true.

Matthew 22:37 [NIV] “*Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.”*”

We are to love our Creator God with our mind as well as our feelings and our physical body.

2 Timothy 1:12 [NIV] “*That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet I am **not** ashamed, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day.*”

Paul was **not** ashamed of what he knew about Jesus Christ and His promises and was willing to suffer for expressing that knowledge.

No blind faith in Paul’s life.

1 Thessalonians 5:21 [NIV] “*Test everything. Hold on to the good.*”

Paul tells the Christian church to test all the knowledge he had brought to them about Christianity and Christian living.

1 John 4:1 [NIV] “*Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but **test the spirits** to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.*”

The apostle John encourages all potential and confessing Christians to test or prove everything that they receive to see if it is true.

This involves the use of our mind.

Mark 12:34 [NIV] “*When Jesus saw that **he had answered wisely**, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” And from then on no-one dared ask him any more questions.*”

Jesus commended this well-educated man for using his mind to respond to his question.

Acts 1:3 [NIV] “*After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave **many convincing proofs** that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.*”

Jesus Christ gave many people, many convincing proofs of His resurrection from the dead, and the future created family of God.

Philippians 1:9-10 [NIV] *“And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so **that you may be able to discern what is best** and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ,”*

Paul encouraged the Christians in the church at Philippi to base their love for God on knowledge and insight, **not** on feelings.

Ephesians 1:17-18 [NIV] *“I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray also that **the eyes of your heart may be enlightened** in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,”*

The hope that Christians have for the future is **not** a vague feeling, but a positive, complete certainty of victory through Jesus Christ over death and a place in the created family of God.

No wishful thinking but convinced assurity of our future.

1 Corinthians 10:15 [NIV] *“I speak to sensible people; **judge for yourselves** what I say.”*

The Christians in Corinth were to judge for themselves what they were receiving through accepting the blood sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

Nothing in scripture indicates that faith in the promises that God has made to all humanity is equal to foolishness or blind faith.

There is much in the instructions to Christians that God expects them to use the minds He has given them to prove their faith.

“You shall not think” is **not** one of the Ten Commandments God has given to humanity.

Many people who claim to be Christians don't know why they believe in Jesus Christ, even though the scriptures make it very clear that they should know.

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,**”*

This is a command **not** just a suggestion.

These facts do **not** invalidate the Christian faith, but just points out that there are some Christians who are ignorant of why they believe.

Just because some confessing Christians haven't taken the time and used their God-given minds to think through what they believe, it is **no** reflection on the truth of Christianity.

The issue is Jesus Christ, **not** the ignorance of someone who is a believer.

We have seen in this article that the Christian Bible exhorts us to use our minds in conjunction with the influence of the Holy Spirit to have a very firm mental foundation to our faith and the decisions that we have about Jesus Christ.

John 16:13 [NIV] *“But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.”*

It is the Holy Spirit working in us who will lead us into all truth that can be the firm foundation of our faith.

John 14:26 [NIV] *“But the Counsellor, **the Holy Spirit**, whom the Father will send in my name, **will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.**”*

The Holy Spirit will also bring to remembrance all we have studied when we need it.

Luke 11:13 [NIV] *“If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will **your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!**”*

We have to ask for the Holy Spirit to work in and through us.

Faith must be exercised, yet faith is based on facts, that our thinking mind can accept, not false hope.

Today many people picture Christian faith as a blind leap into the dark, when it is actually a step towards the light.

Acts 26:26 [NIV] *“The king is familiar with these things, and I can speak freely to him. I am convinced that **none of this has escaped his notice, because it was not done in a corner.**”*

Paul in his defence of the Christian faith before an unbelieving king, who knew that what Paul was speaking about was well-known by his generation in the Middle East, even those in high authority.

The facts of the birth, life, miracles, death and the resurrection of Jesus Christ occurred in full view of the public and could be evaluated and investigated by anyone for their validity.

Acts 17:11 [NIV] *“Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message **with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.**”*

Christians invited sceptics to use their mind to check out the claims of Jesus Christ.

If some valid evidence had come to light which did undermine such events as the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Christian movement would have crumbled.

But it did **not** crumble but expanded on the personal witness of its preachers.

Christian faith is still standing up to the test because it is based on the truth.

John 14:6 [NIV] *“**Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No-one comes to the Father except through me.**”*

Jesus Christ Himself is what He claimed to be, *“the truth.”*

Luke 14:28-30 [NIV] *“**Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it? For if he lays the foundation and is not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule him, saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’**”*

The choice to become a Christian should be made after proper reflection.

It should be considered and evaluated before any commitment is made.

Every person needs to understand what they are doing before they become a Christian.

Those leaders who encourage conversion to Christianity based on emotional appeal or manipulation, are **not** being biblical.

In the long run you will find it needs far more faith **not** to become a Christian, if you allow yourself to give adequate hearing and meditation on the facts.

The evidence for Christianity when being honest and true speaks loudly and clearly to anyone who is willing to be intellectually honest about the issue of who Jesus Christ was and is today.

Acts 1:3 [NIV] *“After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.”*

Jesus Christ is alive as the Eternal Creator God and He will bring the Kingdom of God to full fruition in the near future.

Matthew 24:3-14 [NIV] *“As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. ‘Tell us,’ they said, ‘when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?’” Jesus answered: “Watch out that no-one deceives you. For many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many. You will hear of wars and rumours of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth-pains. “Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved. **And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.**”*

The words of Jesus Christ will come to fruition whether you believe it or not.

Wouldn't it be wise to apply your mind to the facts about Jesus Christ and the Christian church He founded, in your personal preparation for this future event?