**Why Am I A Christian? (Part 1 of 3) / Back To Basics**

The gospel of Jesus Christ is a joyous message which leads to a life full of the only true happiness and contentment available in the world (**1 Peter 1:6-9**). The life of the Christian is also full of joys that are special and not found in the world. If someone was to ask you “Why Are You A Christian?” what would you say? I hope to give us some simple answers in this three part series.

**Why Am I A Christian?**

1. I have a Father who created me and demonstrated His love for me by giving His only begotten Son (**Genesis 1:26-2:4, Psalm 33:6-9, John 3:16, 1 John 4:9-11**).

2. I have a Savior who created me and all that I see, became a man, endured as a man, gave Himself for my sins, and now is reigning as King in Heaven (**John 1:1-5, 14, Hebrews 4:12-14, Romans 5:6-11, Hebrews 10:11-14**).

3. I have a Holy Spirit who created me, that I am to be filled with, and helps me as I am led by Him and follow Him (**Genesis 1:26, Acts 5:32, Romans 8:14, Ephesians 5:15-18, Galatians 5:16, 18, and 25**).

4. Through prayer, I have a way to give thanks, a way to pray for God to help others, and a way to find strength and answers in time of need (**Colossians 3:17, Matthew 7:7-11, James 1:5, 1 John 1:9, and 1 John 3:21-22**). The book of Hebrews refers to Christ as our High Priest who, "ever lives to make intercession for them" (**Hebrews 7:25**). What a comfort a Christian enjoys, knowing that he has access to God the Father through the intercession of God the Son, our perfect and great High Priest!

5. I have a life full of purpose: I am to seek the Kingdom of Heaven first, I am to share the gospel of hope with my fellow man, I am to bring others to Christ, and I am to be a proper light of Jesus (**Matthew 6:33-34, Acts 8:4, Jude 22-23, Matthew 5:16, Ephesians 5:8**).

6. I have a personal relationship with God: Today all four of my kids are here. I enjoy a close personal relationship with each one of them. Many more old and young of my spiritual family are here also. I love having personal relationships with each one of you. [**Example 1**: Last year I met the O’Neal and Erickson kids and their moms, Sarah and Beth at the zoo. Just a short lunch, but it was a beautiful few minutes to connect with these two wonderful families.] [**Example 2**: I have been blessed to be able to play on a basketball team with my son and 11 other wonderful Christian men. All of them are younger than me, but I have been blessed with a personal relationship with each one. (Nate’s wish)] But as a Christian I have an even greater personal relationship with God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. This relationship started when I was baptized for the forgiveness of my sins many years ago (**Matthew 28:18-20**).

**How About You?** If you are not a Christian this morning, you know what? God wants a personal relationship with you **(John 14:23, 17:20-23, and Revelation 3:20)!**

Maybe you are a Christian this morning and you have not lived in a way that reflects the joy a Christian should have? Or maybe you have forgotten some of the blessings of why you are a Christian?

Or maybe you are not a Christian and you need to repent of your sins and be baptized to wash them away?

Now is the time to make your wishes known while we stand and sing!