

What I believe

If you would like to know how I came to believe any of these things, there should be articles or links to most of these topics found on this site for your interest.

- I believe in God, as originally written in the books of the Bible. I believe that every word of the Bible, as written in the original languages, is true. (Unclarities and, less often, mistranslations, have crept in over the years, making a perfect understanding extremely difficult with casual reading. This is due varyingly from simple differences in language patterns to overzealous translators inserting their personal biases where an unclarity existed.) All of the beliefs laid out below come from reading what God Himself has said in the Bible, not from what men have taught concerning it. I will never ask you to take my word for any of these things – it is your responsibility to look these things up and pray for discernment of the truth. Men can be teachers, but only so far as they teach you to go to God for good information, not themselves. As such anything I say here or in any other article or post should not be seen as dogma. If I learn that I have been wrong in a belief, and I have in the past, I will change. That is what the Bible teaches about following Jesus "wherever He goes." Although He never changes - the same yesterday, today and tomorrow - our understanding of Him can. I make every effort to not teach something I am not sure of, but I am human and have Satan working to throw me off as much as anyone does. So I will mostly try to point you to the Bible, because it does not change or err, ever.

- I believe that a sincere effort to read what was **originally** written in the Bible can lead to a fuller understanding of God and the meaning of life. {A few simple reference books can go a long ways in helping you do this. I suggest, in order of importance in case you can only buy one or two: *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* (you can find free online versions of this, although they are never as handy as a real book), *Vine's Expository Dictionary of New and Old Testament Words*, *The Interlinear Bible*, *the International Standard Bible Encyclopedia* (4 volumes, and be careful as there is a lot of unsound commentary mixed in with the facts that you need), and *the Brown, Driver, Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon* (useful, but confusing to the beginner).}

- I believe that it is entirely possible and critical to understand humanity's greatest questions, "why are we here?" and "what is the meaning of life?" The answers are written quite plainly in the Bible. The former is found at the very beginning of the Bible, in Genesis 1: 26-27
"26 Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.' 27 So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them." The latter is partially answered by this same passage, and more fully by the very ending of the book of Ecclesiastes, after Solomon has finished a lengthy philosophical diatribe about how he has spent his life trying to answer these same questions. His answer is simple, short and sweet;

¹³ Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter:
Fear God and keep His commandments,
For this is man's all.

¹⁴ For God will bring every work into judgment,
Including every secret thing,
Whether good or evil.

We are here as part of the process of becoming like God and entering into His family. Our sole purpose in life is to do keep His commandments, thus doing our part in becoming like Him.

- I believe that putting into action the words that are written in the Bible is an act of faith that leads to far greater understanding of God.
- I believe that the some of the major changes made in one's beliefs as a result of believing God's word over the teachings of man include:
 - Keeping the 7th day Sabbath
 - Keeping the annual Holy day festivals commanded by God, and not the pagan festivals of Christmas and Easter which were instituted by men.
 - Eating according to Gods dietary laws
 - Understanding the truth of a literal 7 day creation about 6000 years ago (there are many resources on this topic if you have a hard time allowing yourself to believe this – I'll try to have some of the better ones on this site when I can)
 - Understanding that there is no eternal damnation (Hell) for any human.
 - A greater understanding for why you believe what you do, with a wholeness and peace that comes from seeing how everything makes sense and fits together – all those complicated parts of the Bible as well as all the crazy occurrences happening every day in the world.
- I believe that faith is not blind; that God teaches us to prove all things. In order to do this, much care must be taken to incorporate the entire Bible, so that certain parts are not taken out of context or given too much or too little weight. There are patterns that run throughout the Bible, and all important concepts fit into these patterns. If a belief comes only from one short passage and does not fit an overall pattern, it should be re-examined.
- I believe that the Bible was not written for everybody, only those that God has called at this time. Those who are not called now will not be able to understand the truths laid out in the Bible, and will likely have no interest in doing so to begin with. Those that heed their calling can be baptized and receive God's spirit, that they can continue to grow more and more like Him. Christ says there is a birth order, of which He is the first of the first. The next up will be His bride. After them will be the firstborn of the marriage of Christ and His Bride. And there will be many more offspring after them. All will gain their salvation. But right now, only the firstfruits are being called – the Bride and the firstborn of the marriage.
- I believe that the point to all of this is our entering into God's family. We are made in his image, but because of sin, we need cleansing to become perfect again. I believe that the plan for how this happens is laid out in the pattern of His Holy Days.