

WHY I BELIEVE IN JESUS

Jesus is a historical character who lived on earth about 20 centuries ago and claimed to be the Son of God. Quite a spectacular claim. As a child we each believe that Jesus is the Son of God because our authority figures tell us He is. At some point we reach adulthood and personal responsibility and must validate that decision for ourselves.

It is a more important subject than it was when we were young. When we were young most people you met believed in Jesus, we were just trying to get them to "speak where the Bible speaks and remain silent where the Bible is silent". Today a higher percentage of people do not believe in Jesus, so today we need to be better equipped to convince them of Jesus and then to "speak.....".

For purpose of this discussion, we want to start with the belief in Jehovah as a given. The next newsletter will address that subject.

Four basic reasons why I believe in Jesus are following. Others are unlikely to have the same four reasons as different things are important to individuals in their personal belief systems.

NO ONE WOULD MAKE THIS UP.

A. If a human invented a cause, I would expect it to reflect human logic. To a large extent I see wisdom in Jesus which is not human wisdom.

Much of what Jesus did looks good in retrospect, but we would not have considered it of our own wisdom to establish a cause. "The meek shall inherit the earth" – certainly not normal human reasoning nor a battle cry to conquering the world.

- B. The almighty creator and sustainer of the universe sent his Son to the earth to live as an illiterate commoner, the son of a blue collar worker.
- C. The almighty creator and sustainer of the universe sent his Son to the earth to be crucified by a small bunch of Roman soldiers to satisfy a bunch of religious hypocrites.
- D. The first books of the NT documenting Christ were written about 50 AD, almost 20 years after the leader of the movement was gone.

CREDIBLE WITNESSES:

There are a variety of witnesses to his claims. The writers of the New Testament testified thru their writings. Opponents would say that they were insiders, however, anyone who witnessed the miracles would tend to become and "insider".

The real validation of their word is that almost everyone of them died for their beliefs while refusing to recant the testimony. All apostles except for John died for their beliefs, John was banished to the island of Patmos. That someone who might be considered an insider appeared to believe is not strong evidence.

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That almost everyone of them died without recanting is a definitive proof. Also, that no contemporary writer tells us that they were recanting is definitive proof.

You can be sure that if they knew Christ was a phony, they would not have died for the cause.

RELICS OR ICONS:

Human endeavors tend to generate icons which are identifiable. The first century events were run such that no religious relics were retained to be worshipped which displays a logic different than normal human thought patterns. After a first level of no relics were generated, the second level was that God had the city of Jerusalem destroyed in AD 70 to remove any possible relics and to destroy remaining relics of the Jewish nation.

Since then enough false splinters from the cross have been sold to exceed the wood in the Spanish Armada. I saw a nail in Ventura California "sanctified" by having been touched to one of the original nails in the Vatican. Christ's "actual" liquid blood is displayed in a glass vial in Bruges Belgium. These are clearly not true, but are a clear indication of what man would do if man were dreaming up a religion.

We presently appear to be trying to elevate our icon. The start of the restoration movement is generally considered to be with the Declaration and Address of Thomas Campbell in 1809. The proof copy of Thomas Campbell's Declaration and Address from 1809 is presently in the Christian Church Bethany College in Bethany, West Virginia. The only existing copy of the first printing of the Declaration and Address is also at Bethany College.

SCIENTIFIC STATEMENTS:

The message of Jesus was validated by scientific statements which a mortal could not have known. DESCRIPTION OF ATOMS: Hebrews 11:3: "By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible" This would have been taken as a non-technical statement that God made things from nothing as the paths of the sea were taken in the Old Testament until they were discovered.

We now know the statement to be an incredible scientific statement which God may have put in the New Testament as a validation. Light has a wave length and atoms are smaller than the wave length of light, and so are invisible to light. On your TV or computer screen, an image is a bunch of dots or pixels, each of which are a color and you interpret to be part of an image. If some complex part of the image is smaller than a pixel, it can only be shown as a pixel – you can tell nothing about it.

Today we can "see" more detail of many things by an electron microscope. An electron is the basic size of an atom, so it will not show you an atom any more than light will. If we ever figure out how to upgrade an electron microscope to see an atom, atoms are made of smaller parts – electrons, protons, and neutrons. If we get smart enough to see that, they are apparently made of quarks, photons and gluons. They may be made of something smaller. God figured this all out without our help. We are spending millions of dollars on particle accelerations just to learn what God did.

We must have faith in Jesus in the present age rather than direct knowledge. However, we have a lot more reason to believe in Jesus

IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION: YOU CAN RUN FASTER THAN THE SPEED OF LIGHT!!!!

The title probably appears to be a strange statement when conventional scientific wisdom is that your mass increases as you travel faster, and your mass increases to infinity when you reach the speed of light.

We shall prove in this article that you can in fact travel at and faster than the speed of light and that conventional scientific wisdom is not correct.

The first thing to recognize is that you actually have no idea as to how fast you are presently moving.

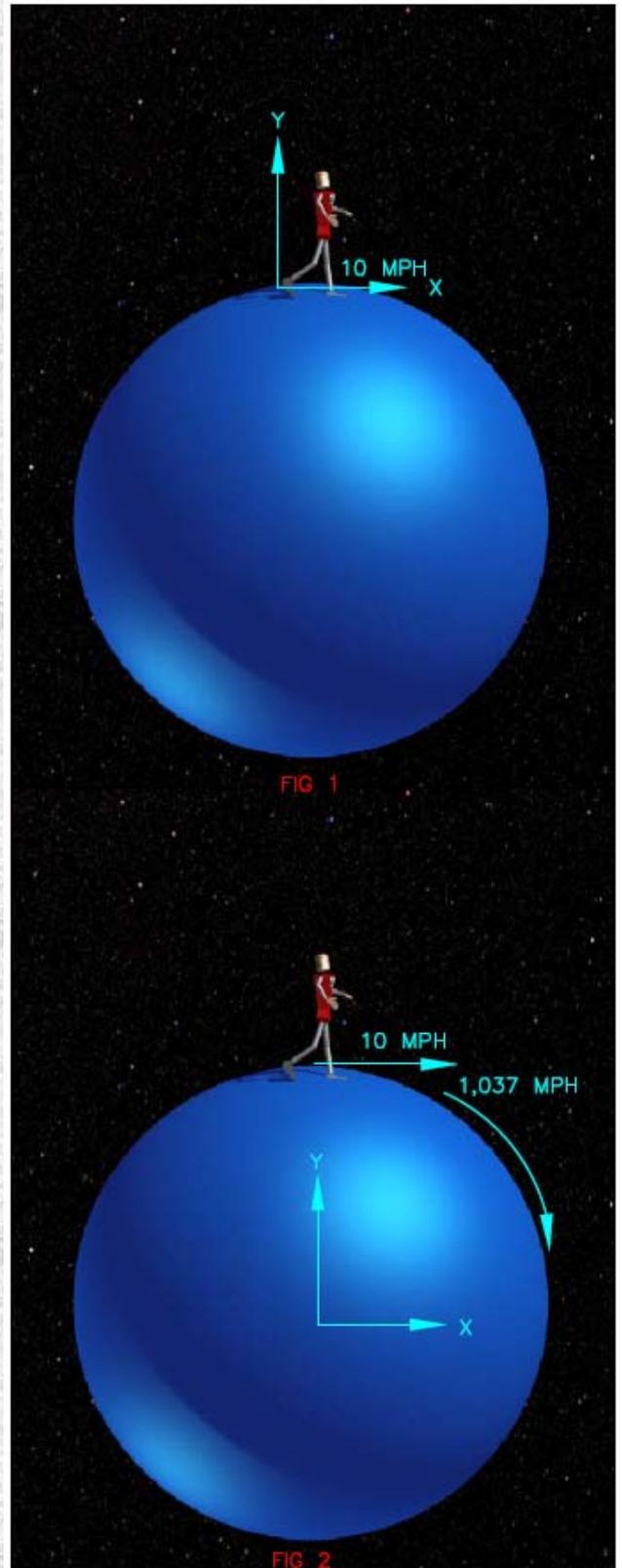
STEP 1: WHAT IS SPEED

When you run at a speed of 10 mph, you are considering that you are running relative to the land you are running on. Figure 1 shows you running on the world, at 10 mph, and your reference system is that of the earth near your feet.

Now imagine that you are running on a treadmill at 10 mph. You are not moving relative to the earth, but you would not say you are not running. Your reference system has become the belt on the treadmill.

Back running on the earth, the earth is about 7926.41 miles in diameter and is rotating at 1 revolution per day, which is about 24,901 miles per day (1037 mph, at the surface as is shown on figure 2). This means that you are actually moving at 1047 mph.

But the earth is orbiting about the Sun at 67,000 mph, so if you choose our solar system as our your reference system, you are moving at a speed of $10+1037+67,000 = 68,047$ mph. However, our solar system is moving in our galaxy at about 560,000 mph relative to the Constellation Cygnus. Our galaxy is moving in space at about 1,230,000 mph in the direction of Galaxy Crater or Leo, giving us a velocity of 1,858,047 mph. This is approximately 1/4% of the speed of light, and we don't have a clue as to how fast Galaxy Crater or Leo is moving.



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IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION: YOU CAN RUN AT THE SPEED OF LIGHT!!!!

Bottom line is that you are running at 10 mph relative to the surface of the earth, but you have no idea how fast you are actually moving. To a large extent it depends upon what reference set of coordinates you are referring to.

STEP 2: WHAT CAN YOU MEASURE TO:

The treadmill, Earth and Sun are specific things where you can identify a central location for your reference system.

The center of our Galaxy and the center of the universe are probably theoretical points, and nothing may well be there, wherever it is.

For the purpose of this discussion, our frame of reference will be Photon A237. A Photon is a quant or unit of light. The point to this is that a Photon is a real thing, it is moving at the speed of light, and it can be our reference system.

RUN TO THE LAMP:

Now turn a lamp on, walk 20 feet away from it. Run toward the lamp. As you run at it notice that light shines past you.

The light shining past you is made of millions of Photons. We are only concerned with one of the Photons passing you, Photon A237.

Your first thought is that compared to you Photon A237 is moving at the speed of light. For our discussion we shall choose Photon A237 as our reference system. We shall call it R237.

A first concept to make sure you understand is that compared to our new reference system R237, Photon A237 has no velocity. The reference system is locked into the center of A237.

Again, as the X, Y, and Z coordinates of the reference system go through the center of the Photon A237, it can't move relative to R237. They are locked together and move together. Don't go further until you understand this statement.

Now imagine the your reference system is not the earth, solar system, galaxy, or universe, but R237. From the point of view of reference system R237, the Photon has no velocity, but you do. From the Photon, you appear to be moving past—at the speed of light.

You are not only moving in this reference system at the speed of light, but you are running also relative to the lamp which emitted Photon 237. So if Photon A237 is moving at the speed of light relative to the lamp you are running toward, **you are in fact running at 10 mph faster than the speed of light.**

One thing you will notice which will be a completely surprise to conventional science wisdom, you didn't get any heavier, much less suddenly gain an infinite mass.

It may be a little hard to adjust your mind to various reference systems and the fact that anything can be your reference system. It is actually very simple, in comparison to the cloud of confusion which some scientist are trying to provoke upon us in the name of the theory of relativity.

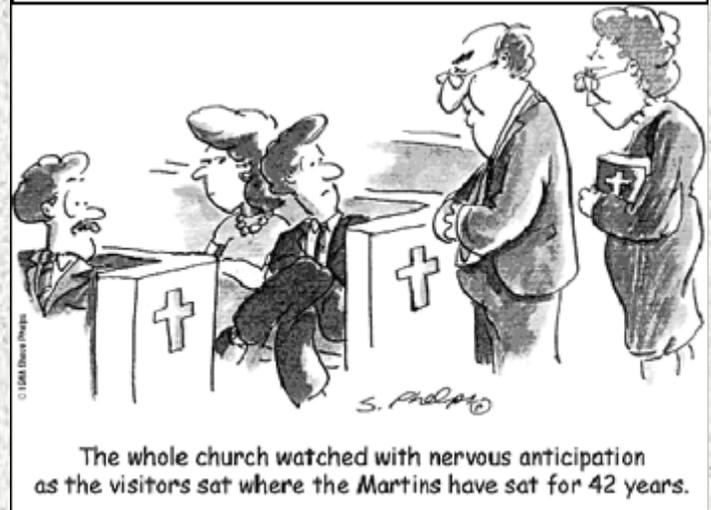
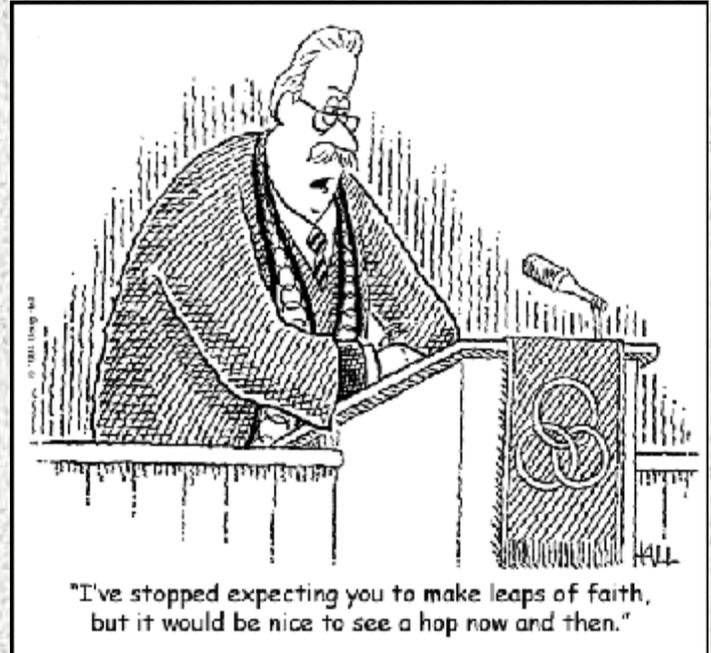
This article is added to the Money Page with an offer to pay \$100 to the first person who can refute this logic.

SPECIAL SEMINARS AT MEMORIAL CHURCH OF CHRIST

Two special Saturday seminars are scheduled for the end of 2009 at Memorial Church of Christ, 900 Echo Lane.

The first, entitled, **“Choosing Wisely: Before You Divorce,”** will be a free workshop held on Sat., Oct. 10, from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. The class will consist of five video-discussion sessions giving an overview of the effect of divorce on children and the family unit. If you or someone you know is considering divorce, this would be an appropriate seminar. When finished, participants will be given a Certificate of Completion for the court system, if needed. Please register by calling Carolyn in the church office at 713-464-0463. Lunch will be provided but child care will not.

The second seminar, which will be presented in both English and Spanish, is entitled, **“Couple Checkup for Dating and Engaged Couples,”** and will be held on Sat., Nov. 14, from 9:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. There is no fee for the seminar. At the completion of the workshop, each engaged couple will receive a voucher for \$60 to pay for a Texas Marriage License. Harold and Beth Wade will facilitate the English speaking group, while Larry and Lou Ann Phillips will conduct the Spanish speaking class. A light breakfast and lunch will be served. Couples who attend must pre-register by calling Carolyn at 713-464-0463. Child care will not be provided.



Area-Wide Singing at Memorial Church of Christ



On Saturday,
October 17,
2009

6:00—8:00p.m.
Great Singing,
Great Leaders,

Memorial Church of
Christ
900 Echo Lane
Houston, TX 77024
713-464-0271

Directions to the building: From I-10, between the 610 Loop and Beltway 8, take the Blalock/Echo Lane exit. Go two blocks south on Echo Lane. The church building is on the left with parking behind the building on the east side.

**For information, contact Wade Price at
713-304-6806 or e-mail at wprice@epco.com.**

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WHAT THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IS NOT

A local group of Christians who believe that the Bible can be updated by contemporary council decisions.

A church which receives the permission from an earthly headquarters to plant a new congregation..

A church which attempts to duplicate a 19th or 20th century pattern for a church.

A church which believes you can pick and choose what part of the Bible you want to believe and follow only those parts.

A church which believes that we should judge that we are all in a community of believers as long as we say we believe in Jesus, irrespective of what we do and preach. A church which should assure all others that they are saved.

A group who makes decisions based on popularity rather than scriptural basis.

A group which simply skips over Acts 2:38.

A group which finds more convenient ways to simulate baptism.

A group which votes on what it suits them to believe and preach or a group which believes that they are still getting direct revelations from God.

WHAT THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IS

The church of Christ is a local group of Christians which try to speak where the Bible speaks and remain silent where the Bible is silent.

The church of Christ tries to reestablish the first century pattern and teaching of the New Testament era at each location.

The church of Christ tries to reestablish the scriptural organization of the church at each location.

The church of Christ has members who believe they are following the scriptural teachings as best they can.

Church of Christ members believe that we should not judge others' eternal reward, but that it is not reasonable to give comfort to others who follow their own preferences rather than teachings of the Bible.

A non-instrumental body as instruments were available in the first century and not used, and not used for several centuries.

A group who teaches Acts 2:38.

A group which teaches baptism by immersion for the remission of sins as that is what is taught in the Bible.

A group which believes all revelation was given in the first century.

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MONEY PAGE

GUARANTEED CHURCH GROWTH

If your congregation does the following, BCE Publications guarantees that it will grow.

Poll your congregation three times at 6 months intervals with the following results:

- 50% of the members know who their elder is
- 50% of the members will say that a minister is their friend
- 50% of the members will say that they are uplifted by the song services
- 50% of the men will say that their input is considered before physical decisions are made
- 50% of the members will say they are an important part of the work
- 50% of the members will say they are aware of the goals of the congregation
- 50% of the members will say that they know what their part is in achieving your goals

GUARANTEE: For the first congregation which does this and does not grow by at least 10%, we will send \$1000 to the church related children's home of your choice in your name.

I have never met a person who said that if they did this their church would not grow. If your congregation is not growing, what have you got to lose? (Offer made since 2001)

IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION?

We will offer \$100 to the first person who can explain how we could have violated the first law of thermodynamics and have come into existence without God.

We will offer \$100 to the first person who can explain how we could have violated the second law of thermodynamics and have existed forever without God. (Offer first posted 8/08)

IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION!

This publication continues (since 1991) to make a standing offer of \$100 to the first person who can give any reason (1 or more) as to why atheistic evolution is a better explanation for the universe and/or life than creation by God, The Father of Adam, Abraham, and Jesus; as revealed in the Bible.

We will also give you \$100 if we cannot give you 12 reasons why atheistic evolution is impossible as an explanation for our existence.

We will discuss this any place, any time, and in any forum. (Offer posed since June, 1991)

RUN AT THE SPEED OF LIGHT:

We will offer \$100 to the first person who can refute the logic that a person can in fact run at the speed of light as presented in the September 2009 issue of this newsletter.

THE MONEY PAGE:

This page may seem odd, even irreverent to offer money for something like this. It is 3 simple statements on church growth, that we cannot be here without God, and evolution is not possible. The steadfastness of putting money on the line for this is to try to be of assistance against those who would discourage church growth, believe in atheism, or promote atheistic evolution.

The page is intended to be a continuing reinforcement.

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AREA WIDE ACTIVITIES

AREA WIDE WORSHIP SERVICE

Fifth Ward Church of Christ and Memorial Church of Christ have been exchanging annual visits to each other's congregations for Sunday evening services. It is an activity well received by all members, and has included a meal prepared by the hosting congregation.

Discussions are underway between the congregations to sponsor an AREA WIDE WORSHIP SERVICE, potentially once a quarter. A possible venue could be the 5000 seat Don Coleman Basketball stadium on Dairy Ashford in west Houston. Hosting a meal is probably not practical. If you have ideas on how to implement this, want to help implement this, would like to attend, or have other comments, send to info@thearray.org and we will forward them to those having the discussions.

YAHOO GROUP

HoustonCofC is a Yahoo group hosted by Steve Sandifer [steve.sandifer@sbcglobal.net] for the purpose of communicating Houston area news among the brethren. It is open to any member of the church at no cost.

The Christian Array Newsletter

This newsletter will be sent to members of the church on a monthly basis as an attempt to promote area wide activities and church growth. If you do not want to receive this newsletter, send an e-mail to info@thearray.org and it will be stopped.

If you know of anyone who would like to receive this newsletter, send their e-mail addresses to info@thearray.org. All past copies of the newsletter can be found on the website "thearray.org".

E-MAIL ADDRESSES

A goal of this newsletter is to develop a mailing list of as many members of the church as possible and to communicate church related information to as many members as possible. In that light, we would appreciate:

1. Your forwarding the church member e-mail addresses which you have.
2. Sending the directory of the congregation you attend or any other directories which you might have.
3. Give us an idea of how to collect church member e-mail addresses.

This information will not be sold or used for any purpose not mentioned herein.

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