

What is Christianity?

Two answers

#1 The Christian life

Jesus said, 'Narrow is the gate and narrow the way that leads to life.' What does this mean? In John's Gospel Jesus said, 'I am the gate. If any one enters by Me he shall be saved.' So trusting in Jesus is the gate. Jesus said to His disciples, 'If you hold to My teaching you are my true followers.' So the narrow way is following Jesus' teachings.

#2 The Person of Jesus

Jesus is far more than a good man or a prophet. He claimed to forgive sin, to be the judge of all mankind, to be sinless and to be able to create life, which He proved by healing the sick and even raising the dead. He said, 'Destroy this temple (His body) and in three days I will raise it up.' He was crucified because of His divine claims, and He said that His death was to bring forgiveness of sins to anyone who turned to Him. Three days later His tomb was found empty and for forty days He appeared to His followers giving irrefutable proof that He really has been restored to life. He claimed the rights and abilities of God and God honoured His claim! This is why Paul says, 'Born a descendant of David (a human being), proved to be the Son of God by His resurrection from the dead.' The Church was formed to bear witness to the Resurrection. From day 1 the Church believed in a divine Messiah - Jesus.

Note on the authenticity of the New Testament

Compiled well within living memory of the evangelical events, the Gospels were immediately accepted as true. Along with the even earlier letters of the apostles and the last book, Revelation, which appeared near the end of the First Century, the New Testament was formed. Multitudes of manuscripts and abundant quotations in other literature, plus high quality accounts (eyewitnesses or contacts of eyewitnesses from the time), provide a mountain of historical evidence.

Five reasons why I believe the New Testament to be accurate

#1 There are abundant substantial manuscripts back to 225AD and small portions and fragments back to 130AD. There are also the descendants of early translations made around 175AD.

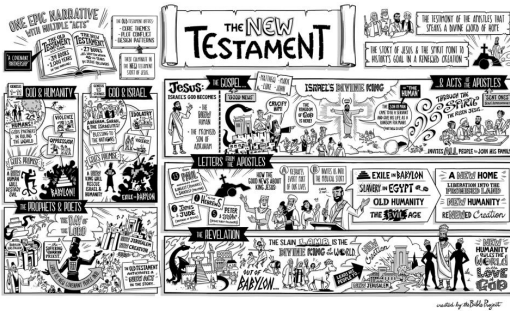
#2 There are innumerable quotations from the New Testament and references to Christian beliefs in other literature going right back to 95AD. All but 11 verses of the New Testament can be retrieved from quotations in other literature.

#3 There are abundant archaeological artifacts that agree with New Testament events and beliefs, going right back to the first century when the New Testament was written.

#4 The Rules of Evidence used by the Legal profession confirm the accuracy and reliability of the New Testament. It was written near in time and place to the evangelical events. The writers therefore had the ability to know the story. Their honesty is tested by the fact they suffered severe persecution and death without retracting their claims to have seen Jesus after He was raised from the dead. Also, the letters have many undesigned coincidences and details about people that agree in a way that a fabricator could not achieve.

#5 Finally an axiom - there are good people in every generation who will accurately pass on what they have seen, read or heard. This means that the accounts of widely witnessed public events can be trusted.

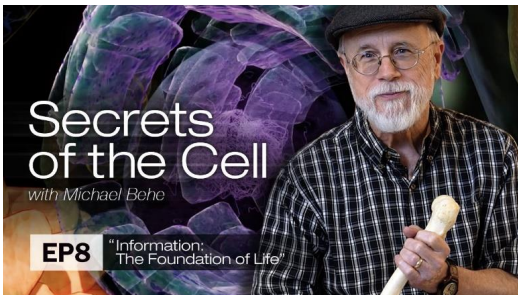
Resources available on YouTube (and elsewhere)



The Bible Project

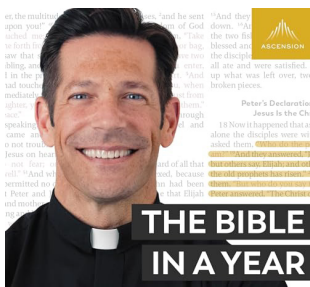


The Jesus Film



The Foundation of Life

featuring Michael Behe



Ascension presents The Bible in a Year with Fr Mike Schmitz