

TOP 12 EXCUSES FOR NOT BELIEVING THE GOSPEL

REMOVING REASONS FOR REJECTING FAITH AND REMAINING BLIND

*"For what if some did not believe?
shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect?
God forbid. Let God be true ..."*

~ Romans 3:3

Was Blind, But Now I See

- a. God's amazing grace saves wretches from being lost and blind the hour I first believed
- b. We were all in unbelief (we are not born with belief) – Titus 3:3, Eph 2:2-3, 1Tim 1:13
- c. Moreover, we are tempted to deny Him – Matt 4:2-10
 - i. "Do what you want, live life!" - "Prove it!" - "I will give, you can have"
 - ii. "Life is by every word of God" "Don't tempt the Lord" "Worship God alone"
- d. *"whatsoever is not of faith is sin"* – Rom 14:23, Titus 1:15, Heb 11:6
- e. Excuses for unbelief are not new and can distract you from preaching/trusting Christ.

1. Not Interested

- a. In the 21st c, apathy could be the number one reason people do not know eternal life
- b. Interest lies in entertainment, career, self-improvement, pursuing my happiness.
- c. #1 reason people stop going to church: they move, and then, move on to other things.
- d. Wake up! Get priorities right. This life is not it, nothing more important than God/Truth.
- e. It pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe - 1Cor 1:18,21

2. Hypocritical Christians

- a. Churches are broken, Bible is profitable for rebuke, correction, instruction – 2Tim 3:16
- b. Don't reject justice because politicians are corrupt. Light is not bad b/c it attracts flies
- c. God is righteous. People are not. Christians do not save, Christ alone saves.

3. Science

- a. Only 28% of Americans qualify as being scientifically literate (they repeat, not think)
- b. "Science is not concerned with what you believe" ← Science cannot tell you about God
- c. Science can give you data, but not wisdom. Science cannot approve your choice.
- d. Science is a method and a means, not a beginning or end.

4. Human Suffering

- a. You would think suffering might cause people to cry out to God, not yell at him (pride)
- b. Suffering, sorrow, and death are real. So is sin and its consequences.
- c. Every major character in the Bible endured suffering as well, often for others/God.
- d. God gives the only tenable solution to it. The word of God gives hope. 1 Cor 15:19

5. Too Exclusive – Not Only One Way

- a. Meaning, there is not only one "way to live" (until you reach the hospital)
- b. "All roads lead to God", but then they would all be going the same direction, right?
- c. Islam-Judaism-Hinduism-Christianity all disagree about Jesus. Who's telling the truth?
- d. "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" – Amos 3:3
- e. This excuse always justifies lying, promoting error.

6. Hell

- a. Unbelievers shall have their part in the lake of fire - Rev 21:8
- b. If hell is so abhorrent, why would you refuse to be saved from it?
- c. Don't reject freedom, because jail sounds terrible.
- d. Hell is a requirement of a loving God who wants to save the world from sin.

7. Unanswered Prayer

- a. Some excuses get very personal.
- b. God is not a vending machine. He is not your butler.
- c. Why would God answer all prayers? Mic 3:4, Jam 1:7
- d. What if what God said is more important than what you said – Eph 3:20

8. Difficulty Interpreting the Bible

- a. The most important parts are the easiest to understand.
- b. Perhaps you are not using it right. Perhaps you need a teacher – Col 2:7, 2 Tim 2:2
- c. Contradictions can be resolved when rightly divided (read in context).
- d. Miracles are signs (what you want, right?) There are no mistakes.

9. Unanswered Questions

- a. God is the truth. In Christ are hid all the treasures of wisdom – Col 2:3
- b. More questions are answered with God through faith than without.
- c. Some things are spiritually discerned and require God to know – 1 Cor 2:14
- d. You won't get all the answers. Wisdom is knowing what is most important.
- e. The fear of the Lord is the beginning... Prov 1:7, knowledge of the holy is... 9:10

10. Love

- a. 'God is a killjoy' – The greatest social ills result from fornication.
- b. God created bodies, and marriage and families to fulfill its purpose. God brings joy.
- c. Fornication is forsaking the true God and worshipping idols (pleasure, Love)
- d. Your marriage family relationships are broken? You need God's reconciliation – 2Co 5:18
- e. A major excuse for leaving faith – "love who you want to love"
- f. God is not telling you who to love, but how to love – Rom 5:8

11. Sin

- a. "I have to stop sinning first" "I have to give up my [sin, politics, relationships, life]"
- b. I don't want to go to school, because I will have to give up my ignorance.
- c. Sin blinds you to the truth and God. Sin will keep you from God. It is contrary to him.
- d. Christ died for your sins to give grace and life and open your eyes – 1 Cor 15:3-4
- e. Sin is what defiles our mind and conscious, makes us of unsound mind – Titus 1:15
- f. Soundness comes from trusting the words of God in Christ Jesus.

12. Good Work

- a. Last but not least reason people do not simply believe the gospel of grace.
- b. "I go to church" "I've got it taken care of" "I'm a deacon" "I'll be ok"
- c. This is the excuse most often heard in church and by "Christians"
- d. Behind this (and every excuse) is pride, self-righteousness, rejecting faith (hearing God)
- e. Our salvation is not by works of righteousness we have done - Titus 3:5, Eph 2:8-9
- f. God leaves without excuse. His word shuts mouths. We are told to speak truth in love.