

Why do I have to choose to be a Christian?

A teaching sheet from The River Worship Center Warsaw, Indiana

This question was posed to me once as I was trying to witness to a coworker. In his zeal for life, he had left God completely out of the picture, which is often the case.

Being relatively intelligent, he understood the simplistic nature of God's promises, and even God's commandments, but he still couldn't quite grasp the concept of himself having to choose, between God, and satan. (the only two choices, regardless of what our atheistic, and polytheistic friends would have us to believe.)

He would rationalize "I didn't choose to be put in this game, (Life itself) so why do I have to choose which team I play for?" Or he would say "I didn't ask to be born, why would God hate me if I didn't choose His Son as my savior?"

To someone who has been brought up from my youth in the church, with my Dad being a minister, as well as my Grandfather, and Uncles I really struggled trying to understand this line of questioning, but the Lord gave me insight, and that is what I will share with you concerning the question of; "Why do I have to choose to become a Christian?"

First, lets address the thought of life being a game. That is not unscriptural, in its nature! The Apostle Paul said "let us run with patience, the race that is set before us..." Again the inference is to life itself, so to consider life as a game is not wrong. However, Paul further states "Let every man so run in a manner that he is able to win the prize," We have so many athletic events these days in which we have tried to remove the competition out of them, that they are relatively a bore to the spectator. Soccer, while exciting to watch when the action is going on, can end in a draw, after an hour of extreme effort, if the game is tied, after a brief possession by each team the match is deemed a draw.

We have seen Hockey teams play feverishly for 4 periods only to wind up in a draw, and most recently, a heavy weight boxing championship ended in a draw.

This may not be politically correct, but there are winners, and there are losers in the game we call life. The fact is this, God enables each one of us the ability to view the facts, and make the choice for ourselves, as to which team we are going to play for.

Let me state it this way, "If today while you were surfing along on the Internet, and all of a sudden your computer went "Phizzzzit," and you found yourself on a web site that had the results of every major event from now until 2025, and you were fortunate enough to have the presence of mind to print the page, would it affect your decisions for future planning?" Sure it would, if you saw that a great shopping mall was going to be built in five years, on a vacant field just down the street from your house, you'd try to buy that piece of land wouldn't you?

Why do I have to choose to be a Christian?

A teaching sheet from The River Worship Center Warsaw, Indiana

What if you saw that there was a stock, which was being sold at pennies today, but in the next six to eight years would be selling for \$250.00 per share how much would you buy?

This is what God has allowed us as Christians to do, we have had mapped out for us in the Bible, the way things are going to happen right up until the end of time as it were, (by the way, every single prophecy in the Bible up till now, has come true, that's a pretty good indicator of its reliability, don't you think?) and all we have to do is choose God.

God however, won't force Himself on you, if you don't want what He has to offer, that is up to you. You should know though, that there is another entity, who, isn't so good, and he'll do anything to keep you from the goodness, and grace of God.

His name is satan, and he was created by, and worshipped God for a while, but he became jealous and evil in his heart. He tried to take over God's seat in Heaven, however, he was not strong enough, and didn't have the smarts to pull off his coup attempt and, and he got kicked out.

Well, you can imagine his anger, and shame I mean he tried a foolish maneuver, and it cost him everything, his job, his home, his life, and his future! So he has been really ticked at God every since, and he tries to keep people from making the choice to become Christians. (Jesus is God's Son, and satan hates Him with a passion too!)

He tries to discourage Christians, to embarrass them for their faith, he even has deceived some men, and women who will do his work for him try to get the Ten Commandments out of schools, and courthouses. Some of his workers were successful in the early 1960's in getting prayer removed from public schools, and look what a mess that created!

Everything satan does ends in disaster, even the government can see the decay in morality among society, after a generation of people not praying or hearing others pray, and not knowing there is a God, who loves them.

But, alas the choice is yours! You must make it, no one can do it for you.

Now here is the kicker, satan, has bet you'll choose him. He doesn't want this information to get to you, but he challenged God, that if you had to make a choice in this matter, you would either not choose God, or you would make no choice at all, which by default means you are saying yes to satan.

I know that sounds unfair, but God has shown us such great love, and mercy, through His Son, Jesus Christ that He knows if you consider (truthfully examine) Him, and His words, you'll want to choose Him.

Why do I have to choose to be a Christian?

A teaching sheet from The River Worship Center Warsaw, Indiana

He said it plainly through His servant Joshua, "Choose you this day whom you will serve..." (Joshua 24:15) Again that is not politically correct, but there are only two choices, and there remains no middle ground, so where will you spend eternity? Heaven or Hell?