



# The Good News

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## ***What do you believe?***

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There is no greater question that anyone can ask than “How do I become a Christian?” We all can hope and pray that at some point in our lives someone will ask this question. However, this rarely happens without a bit of work and study to bring that person to ask this question. How would we respond if someone were to ask us how to become a Christian? As we study with people, how do we steer them to ask this question? It must begin with asking a simple, yet multi-faceted, question: “What do you believe?”

**“What do you believe?”** This is the basic question upon which all studies must start. We must first know what a person believes to determine how to better establish their understanding of God’s word. Some questions to ask are:

1) **“Do you believe in God?”** Many may have doubts or might disbelieve altogether. If this is the case then we must appeal to their sense of logic. David says in **Psalm 19:1** “*The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork.*” Paul says in **Rom. 1:20** that God’s invisible attributes are clearly seen in nature. The perfect order of all things in this world is indeed too perfect to have been stumbled upon by chance.

2) **“Is the Bible the word of God?”** Some simply cannot put their faith in a Bible that, in their opinion, was written by fallible men, or that was copied and re-copied so many times that it no longer conveys the original teachings. There are many aspects to be considered here, but one

universal point is that God is all-powerful, and He has the power to ensure His Book remains intact with its original teachings. Luke assures Theophilus that he had a “perfect understanding of all things” and wrote them down in order so that Theophilus could have a certainty of the teachings of Christ in **Luke 1:1-4**. John says in **John 20:30-31** that many events took place during Christ’s ministry that were not recorded, but what was written was written so that we might believe.

3) **“Will there be a judgment?”** The Bible is explicit in its teaching that there will indeed be a judgment day. Paul says in **II Cor. 5:9-10** that we will all stand before the judgment seat of Christ and we will be judged according to what we have done. This leads us to...

4) **“Will all people go to Heaven?”** Paul goes on to say in **II Cor. 5:11** “*Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord we persuade men...*” Of what terror does Paul speak? He speaks of the terror of standing before Christ in judgment with nothing but our sins. Jesus makes it quite clear in **Matt. 7:21-23** that not all will enter into the kingdom at the judgment. Many will be told to depart because they practiced “*lawlessness*”. Only those who “*do the will of My Father*” will enter into Heaven.

Asking the question “*What do you believe?*” is only the first step. If we can make it through a study with our friend accepting these four principles then we are well on our way to teaching them the truth. Let us all seek to teach others what they must believe to become a Christian.