

KNOW WHAT YOU BELIEVE – KNOW WHY YOU BELIEVE.

(Moerewa CF – 26/10/99 – EKB)

A. What: Know What You Believe. (See No 83.)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and Earth: (*Jer 32:17*)

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, (*Jn 3:16*)

Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, (*Lk 1:35*)

Born of the Virgin Mary, (*Lk 2:7, Mat 1:23*)

Suffered under Pontius Pilate, (*Mat 27:26*)

Was crucified dead and buried, (*Mat 27:35,50,60*)

He descended into hell; (*Ac 2:31, Eph 4:9, Rev 1:18*)

The third day He arose again from the dead, (*Mat 28:6, 1Cor 15:4*)

He ascended into Heaven, (*Ac 1:10,11, Eph 1:20*)

And sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; (*Heb 1:3*)

From there He will come to judge the living and the dead. (*Mat 25:31,32*)

I believe in the Holy Spirit; (*Ac 2:38*)

The Holy Universal Church; (*Heb 12:23*)

The communion of saints; (*1Cor 10:16,17*)

The forgiveness of sins; (*1Jn 1:9*)

The resurrection of the body; (*Lk 24:39, 1Cor 15:52*)

And life everlasting. (*Jn 3:16*)

AMEN

[This is called the “Apostles’ Creed.” The Apostles taught the new believers to say this as there were no books. The earliest copy we have is from 120A.D.]

B. Why: Know Why You Believe. (See No 28.)

1. **“There has to be a first cause.”**

Physical objects, like this piece of rock, need a Creator. Atheistic, materialistic evolution says, “everything came from nothing, and gradually developed by chance.” But all you can get from nothing is nothing! You cannot get something from nothing. So it is much more sensible to believe in God the Creator than anything else.

2. **The record of the fossils in the rocks**, strongly supports creation by God, because when a new group of animals appear, e.g. the bony fishes, they appear:

- a. **suddenly with no intermediates** to previous forms,
- b. **in profusion of numbers**,
- c. **in great variety** of form.

3. **Dr Fred Hoyle**, World leading mathematician, who developed the “Big Bang” theory for the origin of the Universe, worked out the probability for life to spontaneously appear on the earth from the random jostling of atoms and simple molecules, and found it to be:

1 chance in $10^{40,000}$ ($10^6 = 1,000,000$)

So he said, “This is as much chance, for a Boeing 747 to be formed by a tornado in a junk yard.” So he stopped being an atheist.

4. **Creation is full of order, design, and purpose**, and reveals an intelligent, rational Person behind it. E.g. The earth rotates on its axis in 24 hours, on a 23° tilt. The axis keeps parallel to itself as it orbits the sun. So we have day and night and seasons during the year. The force of gravity keeps the earth around the sun. Gravity keeps the moon around the earth. The moon's gravity causes the tides. The earth is just the right distance from the sun, for life.

Water reaches maximum density at 4°C as it cools, so at 0°C it rises to the top and freezes. If it reached maximum density at 0°C, lakes would freeze from the bottom up and never thaw.

Examine a simple flower and see the pattern of sepals, petals, stamens and pistil segmentation

Left to themselves things do not form up in order, pattern, design and purpose, instead they become random and all mixed up. If you do not expend effort and time to keep your bedroom tidy, it becomes random and all mixed up. Order, pattern, design and purpose shows us God's handiwork.

5. **Without God our existence has no meaning.** We are born, live, die and disappear forever. We might as well have never been. But in God we are part of His plan.
6. **All people have the same inbuilt voice of conscience**, of what is right and what is wrong. As a result of this all people groups have the same basic moral code. (See: "Mere Christianity" by C.S. Lewis, Chaps 1-4.)
7. **All people have times in their lives** when they suddenly have the awareness of God's existence and reality revealed to them. It may be through a sunset or seeing the stars on a clear night, *Ps 19:1,2, Rom 1:20*.
8. **On some occasions you can see** the presence of God in somebody's life. They may speak or act in such a way that God is revealed. It may be that they have recently believed in God and you can see the change. Perhaps there has been a miraculous healing when somebody has been prayed for, *Ac 3:8,9,10*.
9. **The latest archeology and anthropology** shows us that ancient civilisations were monotheistic and believed in one, true, good God. ("Eternity in Their Hearts" by Don Richardson, Regal Books, 1981.)
10. **No one person knows all that can be known.** So when they say, "There is no God!" God may well exist in the area of knowledge they do not know. ("Evidence That Demands a Verdict" by Josh McDowell.)
11. **The Person of Jesus Christ is the main evidence** for believing in God. Three anti-Christian Roman writers wrote about Him. (Suetonius, 120A.D., Tacitus 115A.D., Pliny 112A.D.) Also one non Christian Jew called Josephus, 93A.D. They tell us about His existence, life, influence and death. ("The Parchments and Documents of the N.T." by F.F. Bruce.) **The main evidence is in the Old and New Testaments**, of the Bible. There are over three hundred prophecies about Jesus Christ in the Old Testament which were all fulfilled in Jesus' life. For example:
He would be born of a virgin, *Is 7:14, Lk 1:34*.

He would be called Emmanuel, *Is 7:14, Mat 1:23*.

He would be born in Bethlehem, *Mic 5:2, Mat 2:6*.

He would be sold for thirty pieces of silver, *Zech 11:12, Mat 26:15*.

He would ride into Jerusalem on a donkey, *Zech 9:9, Mat 21:5*.

They would gamble for His clothes, *Ps 22:18, Mat 27:35*.

The possibility of all these prophecies being fulfilled in one person by chance, is so remote, that it has to be by Divine Plan.

Jesus Christ rose from the dead, as He said He would, on the third day, and was seen of many witnesses. (*Mat 16:21, 17:9,23, 20:18,19, 26:32*.)

Six independent witnesses record His resurrection and three of them were right on the spot – Peter, John, Matthew, *Lk 24:36-53, 1Cor 15:4-8*.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ transformed His disciples from a band of terrified followers, *Mat 26:56*, into a mighty powerful force to preach the Gospel, *Ac 8:4*.

The empty tomb is still there today and says, “He is risen!” (*Mat 28:6, Mat 28:13*.) God raised Jesus Christ from the dead, *Rom 8:11*.

If Jesus’ disciples had removed His Body, they would not have gone out and fearlessly preached His resurrection in the face of death. If the Jews had removed His Body, they would have produced it to silence His disciples.

The Church of Jesus Christ spread rapidly throughout the whole world, *Ac 13:30*, by the Christians preaching, *Ac 19:10, Ac 8:4, 1Thes 1:8*.

The holy day for the Christian Church became the day of His Resurrection, “the Lord’s Day,” *Rev 1:10, 1Cor 16:2, Ac 20:7*.