

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF CHRISTIANITY?

John 20:1-9 – [1] *“Early Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. [2] She ran and found Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved. She said, ‘They have taken the Lord’s body out of the tomb, and I don’t know where they have put him!’ [3] Peter and the other disciple ran to the tomb to see. [4] The other disciple outran Peter and got there first. [5] He stooped and looked in and saw the linen cloth lying there, but he didn’t go in. [6] Then Simon Peter arrived and went inside. He also noticed the linen wrappings lying there, [7] while the cloth that had covered Jesus’ head was folded up and lying to the side. [8] Then the other disciple also went in, and he saw and believed— [9] for until then they hadn’t realized that the Scriptures said he would rise from the dead.”* (New Living)

CHRISTIAN BENEFIT #1 – ALL OF MY SINS ARE FORGIVEN

Acts 22:14-16 [Ananias speaking to Paul] – [14] *“Then Ananias said: ‘The God of our fathers has chosen you to know his will and to see the Righteous One and to hear words from his mouth. [15] You will be his witness to all men of what you have seen and heard. [16] And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.’”* (NIV)

CHRISTIAN BENEFIT #2 – I KNOW THE OVERALL WILL OF GOD FOR MY LIFE

Ephesians 1:11a – *“It’s in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for.”* (Message)

CHRISTIAN BENEFIT #3 – I GET INNER STRENGTH FOR DAILY LIVING

Ephesians 1:19-20 – [19] *“I pray that you will begin to understand how incredibly great his power is to help those who believe him. It is that same mighty power [20] that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God’s right hand in heaven.”* (Living)

Ephesians 3:16 – *“I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will give you mighty inner strength through his Holy Spirit.”* (New Living)

Titus 2:12 – [God’s grace] *“teaches us to say ‘No’ to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age”* (NIV)

Philippians 4:13 – *“I have the strength to face all conditions by the power that Christ gives me.”* (Good News)

CHRISTIANS BENEFIT #4 – I HAVE ETERNAL LIFE.

The resurrection proves three things:

1. It proves Jesus is exactly who he claimed to be.
2. It proves Jesus keeps his promises.
3. It proves there is Life after death.

John 11:25-26 – [25] *“Jesus told her [Martha], ‘I am the one who raises the dead and gives them life again [Only Jesus said this]. Anyone who believes in me, even though he dies like anyone else, shall live again. [26] He is given eternal life for believing in me and shall never perish.’”* (Living)

Key Thought: It means more than believing in the reality of God.

James 2:19 – *“You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that – and shudder.”* (NIV)

FIVE EXPRESSIONS OF WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A CHRISTIAN

1. BEING A CHRISTIAN MEANS I’VE TURNED MY LIFE OVER TO JESUS

1 John 5:13 – *“I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.”* (NIV)

2. BEING A CHRISTIAN MEANS NOTHING CAN SEPARATE ME FROM GOD’S LOVE

Romans 8:38-39 – [38] *“And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from his love. Death can’t, and life can’t. The angels can’t, and the demons can’t. Our fears for today, our worries about tomorrow, and even the powers of hell can’t keep God’s love away. [39] Whether we are high above the sky or in the deepest ocean, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.”* (New Living)

3. BEING A CHRISTIAN MEANS I USE MY LIFE TO SERVE GOD BY SERVING OTHERS

Romans 6:13 – *“Do not let any part of your body become a tool of*

wickedness, to be used for sinning. Instead, give yourselves completely to God since you have been given new life. And use your whole body as a tool to do what is right for the glory of God.” (New Living)

4. BEING A CHRISTIAN MEANS SUFFERING FOR WHAT IS RIGHT

Matthew 5:11-12 – [11] “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. [12] Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.” (NIV)

5. BEING A CHRISTIAN MEANS I TRUST GOD’S WORD

Psalm 33:4 – “For the word of the Lord holds true, and everything he does is worthy of our trust.” (New Living)

Hebrews 6:18 – “So God has given us both his promise and his oath. These two things are unchangeable because it is impossible for God to lie. Therefore, we who have fled to him for refuge can take new courage, for we can hold on to his promise with confidence.” (New Living).

Easter Prayer

Father, You have promised me that if I believe in You, obey Your Word and submit my life to Your principles, everything I’ve ever done wrong will be forgiven. You have promised to give me general direction in life. You have promised to provide me with inner strength for daily living. You have promised to accept me into Your eternal home in heaven one day. I want to have real faith in you, not fake faith, I want to be a true believer, not a partial believer. I want to turn over every part of my life to Your control and management. You are God and I’m not. You have the right to set the direction of my life. I want to serve You and not just serve myself. And when it’s required, I’m ready to suffer for doing what’s right, whatever that involves. Finally, I want to trust Your Word – both Your instructions and Your promises. I humbly commit my life to you, I willingly submit myself to baptism in water for the forgiveness of my sins. In Jesus’ name. Amen.