



The Only Reason to Become a Christian

John 21:20-25

This is the disciple which testifieth of these things, and wrote these things: and we know that his testimony is true (John 21:24—KJV).

This is the disciple who is testifying to these things and wrote these things, and we know that his testimony is true (John 21:24—NASB).

This is the disciple who is testifying to these things and has written them, and we know that his testimony is true (John 21:24—NRSV).

Why should someone become a Christian? Christians can think of many lasting benefits for becoming a Christian; benefits beyond what we can even begin to imagine that will only increase throughout eternity. As we study the New Testament, we learn how Jesus Christ made these benefits possible for His followers by His death, burial, and resurrection. Unfortunately, some people believe in God only for the benefits, and they remain selfish and self-centered, thinking only of themselves and of what God will give them in the future. Satan accused Job of trusting in and honoring God only for the benefits, but Job showed Satan that he served God because God was worthy to be loved. In John's gospel, we learn the best reason to become a Christian. The best reason to follow Jesus is because Christianity is true, and because Christianity is true the followers of Jesus turn from selfishness and self-centeredness to God-centeredness, to loving God supremely, to obeying God, and to loving others as Jesus Christ has loved them. From the way John's gospel concludes with these words by one who knew John, "his testimony is true," we know the greatest, most important, and the only real reason for becoming a Christian — because Christianity is true. Thinking further, John used the words true and truth far more than any of the other gospel writers. Depending on the translation, in John, John's Letters, and Revelation, John used the word "true" or "truth" 82 times. Dr. Francis Schaeffer concluded: "There is only one reason, and not two, for becoming a Christian, and that is because Christianity is true."

Thinking Further

1. Why do you think Peter was concerned about the future of John?
2. When Peter asked about the future of John, how did Jesus answer him?
3. Can you think of one or more ways Peter and John differed as Apostles?
4. Why do you think John wrote about the circulating rumor?
5. What do you think was the most important declaration that John made about his gospel?