

# Why You Don't Believe in Jesus

And the light shineth in darkness; and the  
darkness comprehended it not.  
– John 1:5

This essay will start in an unlikely place, which is a scene from the first Star Trek movie from 1979: *Star Trek: The Motion Picture*.

Background: V'ger is an advance Voyager 6 probe that has returned to earth to seek its creator. It has reached the limits of materialistic knowledge but it still seeks for more. The crew of the Enterprise must intuit a way to help it achieve this form of enlightenment – perhaps by some kind of union with its creator. But how?

Dialogue following:

Spock to Kirk: V'ger must evolve. Its knowledge has reached the limits of this universe and it must evolve. What it requires of its god, Doctor, is the answer to its question: Is there nothing more?

Doctor McCoy: What more is there than the universe, Spock?

Decker: Other dimensions, higher levels of being.

Spock: The existence of which cannot be proven logically. Therefore, V'ger is incapable of believing in them.

Kirk: What V'ger needs in order to evolve is a human quality – our capacity to leap beyond logic.

Decker: And joining with its creator might accomplish that.

That's quite a leap of faith on Commander Decker's part, but it wasn't based on nothing at all, that is to say, it wasn't just a blind leap of faith. It was based on his intuition. On old *Star Trek*, intuition was a fully honored companion of both science and logic.

So, Decker did join with V'ger and the two became one. Decker – the human – is the god-creator to V'ger. But, what did Decker contribute to this new combined 'lifeform' that V'ger, by itself, was lacking? Answer: That which V'ger needed the most at that moment in its evolution: his soul. For it is in the soul that humans have the capacity to intuit beyond the rationally knowable, to leap beyond mere logic and facts, to apprehend wherein dwelleth higher beings in higher dimensions in the heavenlies – God and the angels -- in Heaven, the transcendent sanctuary of God.

It so happens that Jesus mentioned the soul:

Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart,  
and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

– Matthew 22:37

There are other versions of this teaching in the Gospels, but this one will do. But what do these three aspects of the human being mean: heart, mind, and soul? Well, I'm going to present my own beliefs on them.

Perhaps the simplest to fathom is the mind. Surely, it's the seat of rational and logical thought and the retention of factual knowledge.

The heart must be the seat of emotions/passions, both for good and for evil:

For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications,  
thefts, false witness, blasphemies:

-- Matthew 15:19

Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

-- Matthew 5:8

A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.

– Luke 6:45

Then, what of the soul? Well, what's left of the higher human capacities that I haven't mentioned yet? I can think of three crucial ones: Intuition, Imagination, and Creativity.

The atheist seems to demand of the Christian apologist to be able to 'touch the face of God' with only scientific facts and logic. Like V'ger, he demands proof that can be set down on a table for careful scientific observation and analysis, but Jesus has already declared that as insufficient. Yes, we need the logic of our minds, and we need the passion of our hearts, but we also need the intuition of our souls.

And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive: For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, and should **understand with their heart**, and should be converted, and I should heal them.

– Matthew 13:14-15

What does it mean to understand with the heart? To me it means to see Jesus's vision of a world in which people are kind to each other and only speak the truth to each other. So, we can love that vision or ignore it or despise it. But those are reactions that come with emotions, and emotions come from the heart of man. Thus, we can only understand His vision from the heart. And that is why the atheists do not believe in Jesus.

It's ironic to me that Kirk guessed that V'ger gained so much knowledge that it achieved consciousness: "it became a living thing." (Where have I heard that phrasing before?) But apparently not a living soul, because a living soul would have already had the intuition needed to go beyond mere knowledge and logic. As the Bible told us long ago:

And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

– Genesis 2:7

When God created the animals, He did not do so by breathing into them their living essence – only man was created a living being that way. Only man has a soul among the living creatures on earth. Now, that is not to say that the animals do not think or feel emotions or have intuition or creativity, because clearly the higher animals do, but it is to say that even the average human has much more of each of those than the highest animal. In that sense, man is in the image of God, though the animals are not.

So, as scripture says:

And God said, Let us make man in our **image**, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

– Genesis 1:26

I have said, **Ye are gods**; and all of you are children of the most High. But ye shall die like men, and fall like one of the princes.

– Psalms 82:6-7.

And out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof.

– Genesis 2:19

It's really easy to overlook the importance of this verse. Up to this point in the narrative, it's been God (apparently) that has been naming the things in His created universe. But now, Adam, the being with a soul, is given the honor and ability to invent words to name the animals. God gave Adam a language by which to communicate with Him; and in return, Adam gave God a zoological vocabulary, which Adam created out of nothing, this god-like ability being derived from the fact that he was a son of God (Luke 3:38). [By the way, it seems reasonable to assume that it was Adam who named the behemoth creature of Job 40:15 as 'behemoth', which, of course, is a translation into English.]

Einstein is quoted as saying, "Imagination is more important than knowledge." This may not be true for everyone, but it was apparently true for him. For Einstein was constantly in the process of bringing new theories into the world, or finding new arguments to debunk Copenhagenism. Either way, it was his (and others's) creativity in action. It's easy to take imagination for granted, but where does it come from?

So, how do people create, that is, to bring forth something new into being? For those who are really good at it, we say that they are gifted or blessed, but these are just words that cover up our ignorance of how people actually do these awesome things.

But imagination can be used for evil as well as for good. After Adam and Eve were kicked out of the Garden of Eden after the Fall because of their sins, they had children and children's children, and in time there were thousands, if not millions, of people on the earth. But God didn't like the horrible way they thought about or treated one another. They used their imaginations for evil:

And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

– Genesis 6:5

And God so despised the world corrupted by the people that were then, that He destroyed it with an overflowing flood. But it seems like a state of existence that we are entering again, forcing God to act again to destroy the earth. A time called the Great Tribulation:

This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

-- 2 Timothy 2:1-7

For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened. Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you before.

– Matthew 24:21-25

The Bible refers to greed as a form of idolatry:

Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

– Colossians 3:5

Greed, or covetousness, begins as an emotion (or lust), but to fulfill it, one must imagine the state of fulfillment and devise a means to get there. And in doing that, one can become consumed in thoughts and actions that can bring one to that state (idolatrously minded). When are that person's thoughts ever to be sincerely given then to godly things with a pure heart?

The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God:  
God is not in all his thoughts.

– Psalms 10:4

(Now, that is not to say that we are not to aspire to have a means of financial sustenance, and then to imagine how we can fulfill that ethically.)

And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk: Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.

– Revelation 9:20-21

The many plagues and judgments to be brought against mankind in that tribulation period for its many and grievous sins will be brought over a long time period to give people the chance to repent, but because of pride and stubbornness they will not repent and believe in Jesus.

His own people said of Him, at the time of His days in the flesh, as revealed to us by Jesus Himself in a parable:

But his citizens hated him, and sent a message after him, saying, We will not have this man to reign over us.

– Luke 19:14

And *that* is why you do not believe in Jesus.

It's probably harder to believe in Jesus in the West today than at any other time since His resurrection. But why? Because over the last two-thousand years there has been crafted by thousands of naysayers, and experts (so-called), and unbelieving scientists, and antinomians at least one lie to counter every truth of the New Testament and much of the Old Testament. And if you've read or heard of those lies, you could be very damaged in your ability to believe in Jesus. Do you think that the people who oppose the Gospel of Jesus do so without their own agenda, and being completely objective?

Jesus already admitted that He's working at a disadvantage to the contrary forces arrayed against Him, because He admitted that his Gospel message is highly offensive to the natural man:

Blessed is he who is not offended in me.

– Matthew 11:6

But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

– 1 Corinthians 2:14

It can take great effort to not be offended by the Gospel, and I say that as a Christian myself. The message of the Gospel is sink-or-swim, therefore I only hurt myself to presume the luxury of complaining to God how He does things, though I admit, I wish it were sometimes otherwise. Nevertheless, it is what it is. And your inability to accept that simple harsh reality is why you do not believe in Jesus.

But in the *Gospel According to John* we see Jesus giving us a way to cut through all those mental attacks, lies, conundrums, and distractions thrown at us by unbelievers and scoffers – all the red tape. You have never needed to base your faith solely on the secular historicity or lack thereof of Jesus, ontology of God arguments, or science’s speculative narrative of past events, both archeological and cosmological. You have always had the Lord’s blessing to just cut to the chase and use your intuition.

For Jesus said:

No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.

– John 6:44-45

So, this is the scenario that Jesus refers to repeatedly in the *Gospel of John*: First, the person is instructed of God the Father through an inner voice, or through the conscience, or through one’s parents, or through the teachings of the Bible to love Truth and Moral living, and to be compassionate each man to his neighbor (Zechariah 7:10). Let’s read more of that section of scripture:

And oppress not the widow, nor the fatherless, the stranger, nor the poor; and let none of you imagine evil against his brother in your heart. But they refused to hearken, and pulled away the shoulder, and stopped their ears, that they should not hear. Yea, they made their hearts as an adamant stone, lest they should hear the law, and the words which the Lord of hosts hath sent in his spirit by the former prophets: therefore came a great wrath from the Lord of hosts.

– Zechariah 7:10-12

Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me. If any man will do his will [the Father’s will], **he shall know** of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.

– John 7:16-17

Thus is revealed to all mankind the secret, hidden in plain sight, for how we can believe in Jesus with strong confidence: If we can start early in our lives to believe in truth and morality and to respect all other people, even without ever hearing of God or Jesus through our ears, because we allowed the voice of the Heavenly Father to instruct us in the inner man, then when we do hear the words of Jesus, we just get it by intuition!

Suddenly, the piece that was missing to fulfill the meaning of our lives has been fitted into place in our hearts and minds and we just know that Jesus is the Word of God, who brought to us the spoken word from the Father, which we had always believed in, and then we accept His vision of the future kingdom on earth, and work for it as He commanded us to do.

In this purer form of belief in Jesus, it's not about the religious rearing we get of our parents, though that can help (or hurt), and it's not about being born in a so-called 'Christian' country, which might actually work against one being saved because from what I've seen, most so-called 'Christians' born in so-called 'Christian' countries these days are totally heretical, blasphemous, covetous, selfish, and demonic. It's also not about Pascal's Wager or the many ontological arguments for God or about apologetic arguments.

Before His audience ever heard His first sermon from his lips, a few of them had lived with the sincere desire to live honestly, ethically, humbly, and compassionately in the world, and to have in themselves a vision of a new world where those virtues are shared in common amongst all people. And even from their youth they found it very strange and consternating that their friends did not share these aspirations and ideals, and they stole from others and told lies and did not respect their parents or authorities, and they spoke with crude language and false accusations.

However, these people who heard the voice of the Father and had aspired to these virtues, often found themselves lacking in victory. But then they heard Jesus's message of Truth, charity, nobility, humility, and they were instantly All-In, and that's when they finally got the victory they sought (Galatians 5:16). They didn't even have to wait to hear His warning of hell and damnation, because they were already convinced to follow His vision of eventual heaven on earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness (also known as the Restoration of All Things).

Let's now look at a particular Israelite, at the time of Jesus, who knew how to behave toward Jesus with honest skepticism, rather than by scornful self-interest:

Now Philip was of Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph. And Nathanael said unto him, Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith unto him, Come and see. Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and saith of him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile! Nathanael saith unto him, Whence knowest thou me? Jesus answered and said unto him, Before that Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee. Nathanael answered and saith unto him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel.

– John 1:44-49

First, what is meant by having guile? The meaning closest to the concerns of Jesus would be lying, deceitfulness, or duplicity. These would show one as being dishonest. Well, this is high praise that Jesus gave to Nathanael, and He is recorded in the Gospels to have given this kind of high praise to very few people.

Nathanael went in a flash from being an honest skeptic to being a true believer – perhaps in record-breaking time. Was he a fool or just showing a lack of discretion? I don't think it was either of those. How could he have lived his life that honest (lacking any guile) and not have

done so from his youth? So, just how was he able to believe on Jesus with such high confidence? By his intuition. And if you can't do that, that is why you do not believe in Jesus.

But if you have lived your life to be honest and forthright and to never lie, you have not done so in vain, because Jesus has taken notice of it.

This is the vision that Jesus gave the Apostle Peter for a new world, and Peter wanted that vision to be true:

Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

. – 2 Peter 3:13.

And because you do not share that vision, nor have the patience to wait for it, according to God's time table, that is why you do not believe in Jesus.

For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.

– Hebrews 10:36

The ability to make that leap beyond logic is graced to all functioning human beings through the soul wherein dwelleth their intuition by which they have the means to understand and know the truth of the Gospel by intuition. This is not a blind leap into the darkness; rather, it's a joyous leap into the Light of the Gospel, apprehended by intuition, that lives within the souls of repentant men, if they have not crushed their intuition for spiritual things right out of existence. And that is why you do not believe in Jesus.

Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.

– John 6:68

But how did Peter come to believe with such confidence that Jesus, among the many "messiahs" who had come before Him, had the words of eternal life?

You unbelievers in the West, you want a scientific consensus before you'll believe anything. You cower behind this, and *that* is why you do not believe in Jesus, who told us:

How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only?

– John 5:44

It takes courage to break away from the crowd on anything; how much more so on one's spiritual beliefs. Like it or not, that's how God set it up. Deal with it.

As V'ger put it, "The creator must join with V'ger." For some of us, we have always sensed that need to be completed by a moral kindred being. For some of us, we are waiting to have the missing piece given to us so that we know that Truth and Honor and kindness one to another are important in human affairs and that our lives are not meaningless dystopian nightmares brought

to us by our passions and preached to us by our atheist and humanist intellectual leaders and traitorous or backslidden, money-grubbing evangelical hypocrites. But how does this happen?

Now it's our turn to take the place of V'ger. How do we connect to our Creator in purity of heart? What is the process by which we can make the leap beyond mere facts and logic? Answer: Through the heart, mind, and soul, which God has graced upon each of us.

Now, the leap beyond logic:

Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me.

– John 8:42

Again, the leap beyond logic

It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.

– John 6:45

It's as if Jesus was saying over and over, If you have been instructed of my Father, and if you can just believe on Me and be All-In, then I will give you the grace to turn your godly aspirations into realizations, to get the victory over the flesh nature you have sought for all your life. Use your intuition with courage. Be All-In.

And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that doeth **truth** cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.

– John 3:19-21

So, if you are a doer of Truth, you will go to the light that can enlighten men's souls unto salvation, and let nothing stop you. Otherwise, ye shall die in your sins. He that really loves the Truth cannot hate Jesus. But for those who do not love the Truth because they have taken to themselves other priorities, that is why they do not believe in Jesus.

## The Wow! Effect.

The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.

– Psalms 19:1

But why is it that unbelievers do not see the fantastic images of the heavens as declaring the glory of God? Because they have lost the child-like Wow! That is an emotion common to all children, but seems to get lost to most of us jaded, surfeited adults.

Jesus said:

... Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.

– Matthew 18:3

So, what did Jesus mean by this enigmatic warning? Most people seem to think that it refers to a return to childlike innocence, but one can lose that innocence at a very young age. Others think that it refers to a childlike faith in one's father. Well, that can sure go wrong, can't it? Still others may claim that it refers to a childlike humility before authorities – the suppression of arrogance and presumption. [Remember: *We will not have this man to reign over us.*]

Now, I'm not going to dismiss any of these three interpretations, but instead, I'll add one more: A return to the youthful ability to appreciate the awe and wonder of the natural world that shows His glory in the things that He made; those things that still bear his glory, though dimly, that existed in abundance before the Fall of Man. So, I ask you: Why do we see in colors rather than in black and white? Is it to help us survive as a specie? Maybe, but to me, not primarily. We see in colors to help us see the glory of God that still resides in the universe, though it is corrupted by the Fall of Man. But, one day the full glory will come back.

For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

– Romans 8:19-23

A secular scientist can look at the heavens and see its beauty, yet deny its divine origin. That would be going too far, I suppose, to give God his due. Let's not get too emotional, please. Why is it that children aren't worried about getting too emotional when they say, "Wow!"?

I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.

– Psalms 139:14

It's a strange thing to me that to the secularist, the more he learns about the natural world, the less impressed he is about it, for he believes that he has removed from it its mystery, and thus he has become its master. This is just his pride showing. But to the sincere believer, the more he knows about it, the more in awe he is of it. As for me, the more I learn about the simplest biological cell, the less inclined I am to believe that it is the result of random chance of nature. How much more so I cannot believe that the highly complex cells and interoperating organs of

human beings are an accident of chance. And, by contrast, that is why you do not believe in Jesus.

Television has given us two role models of fully grown men who have never lost that childlike awe of the natural world: The first is Eb from *Green Acres* and the second is Tom Baker's version of Doctor Who. As a role model for myself, I'll choose the latter, but either is better than the dismal personalities of most people. No wonder people turn to drugs or alcohol or excessive living to give purpose to their lives, or to defeat life's seeming drudgery or dullness or lack of purpose. If this is really what life means to so many people, no wonder the suicide rates are sadly so high.

## Never tell a lie

If you do not have a love of the Truth, you can be talked into believing almost anything. How does one know if one has the love for the Truth? One must commit to never telling or believing a lie, and that is perhaps a lot harder than you might think. One must not defy one's conscience, especially when one is still young and the conscience is still undefiled.

Jesus hates lying. He also spoke of the Great Disconnect.

Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me. Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word. Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it. And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not. Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me? He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God.

– John 8:42-47

Therefore, here Jesus isn't preaching to atheists that there is a God, for He already said that all men have heard the voice of God in their inner beings. What He is saying is that those who have accepted the values of that revelation of God in their lives will also accept that Jesus proceeded forth from God the Father. And that is why you do not believe in Jesus.

And there shall in no wise enter into it [New Jerusalem] any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, **or maketh a lie**: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

– Revelation 21:27

Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and **whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.**

– Revelation 22:14-15

Jesus said of Himself:

... I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

– John 14:6

What Jesus did **not** say is: I am the way, the **conspiracy theory**, and the life. Those who are given to believing or inventing conspiracy theories, making false accusations against others, or spreading or receiving rumors are those who **loveth and maketh a lie** and they will have their place in the Lake of Fire.

Twelve more reasons why you do not believe in Jesus (in no particular order):

- 1) Ungodly life-long aspirations.
- 2) Fear of living a life in trust of God.
- 3) Fear of being marginalized, defriended, or persecuted by people for being Christian.
- 4) More in love with the Creation than with the Creator.
- 5) Ungodly addictions or affections.
- 6) Manifest or hidden anger at God or at hypocrite Christians.
- 7) Dislike of the way God does things and of His demanding plan of salvation.
- 8) Deceived by the face-value of the created world, rather than to accept what God has told us about it.
- 9) Confusion or dislike about the goodness of God and the reality of evil.
- 10) The built-in existence of falsely appearing factual contradictions to the Bible, its morality or history of the world.
- 11) You tried once to live for Jesus but you failed, and then you became discouraged or offended in Him and gave up. You then ‘deconstructed’ your belief in Him.
- 12) One way or another, the role that God has given you for this life is somehow not to your liking and so you rebel against Him.

And that is why you do not believe in Jesus.

# Epilogue

What can be said at all can be said clearly, and what we cannot talk about we must pass over in silence.

– Ludwig Wittgenstein

I'm going to try to be as clear as I can on why you don't believe. I don't feel that I need to pass over this explanation in silence because it's recently become very clear to me, as it has taken me half a century to figure it out. So, right now I'm going to try to explain the huge disconnect between the few true believers in Jesus (not the lukewarm or the hypocrites or the bench warmers or the political fascist, power-hungry nutcases) by modeling salvation as just a two-step process. So, at the risk of over-simplifying a complex issue, here goes:

- 1) You have to **really** care about eternity at the personal level, that is, **your** personal eternity with moral accountability to a supreme being.
- 2) You have to hear and believe the words of Jesus.

Long ago I heard a person claim that she had read one of the Gospel books and concluded that a mere man could have written it, implying that it had **zero** evidence of any divine imprint on it. I was appalled at the obvious false claim – obviously false to me, that is. I have been puzzling over this disconnect between true believers and true unbelievers for decades. Why is it that to me the words of Jesus, particularly as revealed in the *Gospel According to John*, are so immediately divine and true and are the words of eternal life, but to the vast majority of all other people on earth, they are just irrelevant fictions?

The overwhelming majority of people who fail God do so at the first step, not the second. For if you don't really believe in a personal eternity or you believe in a personal eternity without moral accountability for the actions of your life, then you are perfectly set to be dissuaded and distracted by the myriad of events and forces in the world waiting there to dissuade and distract you to eternal damnation.

You can consider your life a meaningless grab for gusto or for power or for joy that money and opportunity can give you – to fulfill your lusts. Or you can live your life in meaningless quiet desperation and monotony. Or you can live as a victim of birth or circumstances. Or, contrary to all of that, you can live your life as being on a personal heroic epic journey to find the Savior of your soul, and failure on your part to connect to that Savior is **not** an option you will entertain, no not for a moment.

To those who have no intuition of personal eternity with moral accountability, it's no wonder that they can read the Gospels and not be moved to repentance by them. As for me, I could not do that. I have always had the intuition of God and moral accountability and the need to go on this epic journey to find my personal Savior in God. And that is the reason for the basic disconnect between those who truly believe in Jesus and those who truly do not.

And that is why you do not believe in Jesus Christ.

--- Patrick Reany [12/17/2021]

One more time I'll show you how God wants you to come to faith in Jesus. **First**, hear the truth from the Father who is above all and **then** hear and believe the words of Jesus:

Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.

– John 18:37

Disclaimers:

- 1) To the best of my knowledge, there are no factual errors in this essay. But if I find them, I will correct them in my essays, math papers, and Christian fictional works. I never claimed to be perfect, and I certainly am not.
- 2) Everybody gets to make general statements of classes of people that should not usually be taken as implying absolute claims, meaning that there can be some exceptions. I give this allowance to others as I claim the right to use it for myself. Unless the claim is an egregious over-generalization, it should be allowed.
- 3) If I should, regrettably, make an error due to my own ignorance or by subtle fallacious thinking or by a misunderstanding of a concept, I beg your forgiveness. Hopefully, then, in time I'll find it and correct it.