

# **"There is no proof that Christianity is true."**

Compiled by Michael Burns.

Among religious skeptics this is a common claim. If you don't believe me just Google it. My first hit was these bits of totally unsubstantiated claims:

[Eight Reasons Why Christianity Is False.](#)

[Is there any proof that Christianity is true?](#)

It can also be expressed as "There is no proof of God's existence." Here was my first hit on that one: [God is imaginary.](#)

## **What is proof?**

### **Proof:**

noun

1. evidence sufficient to establish a thing as true, or to produce belief in its truth.
2. anything serving as such evidence:  
*What proof do you have?*
3. the act of testing or making trial of anything; test; trial:  
*to put a thing to the proof.*
4. the establishment of the truth of anything; demonstration.

...

### **Evidence:**

noun

1. that which tends to prove or disprove something; ground for belief; proof.
2. something that makes plain or clear; an indication or sign:  
*His flushed look was visible evidence of his fever.*
3. *Law.* data presented to a court or jury in proof of the facts in issue and which may include the testimony of witnesses, records, documents, or objects.

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This means that when one collects a number of evidences and considers them rationally, one can be convinced of the truth of some claim. Notice that this implies that a person genuinely considers the facts.

There is in fact, a very large body of evidence to support the claims of Christianity, but many people refuse to engage with it.

### **Examples of proof:**

Many strong atheists have for personal reasons, determined to prove that God does NOT exist, or that Christianity is false and dangerous. These are brilliant people. All of the people on this list set out on a campaign to disprove Christianity, only to come to the opposite conclusion and have become some of the greatest advocates of its truth. Check out their pages on Wikipedia.

1. **C.S. Lewis** - One of the most read and educated men of all times. When he was a student at Oxford he was a committed atheist. He insisted that Christianity was a myth. His friend J.R.R Tolkien pointed out that it was a **true** myth. He was a professor at both Oxford and Cambridge. He is known as perhaps the best Christian apologists of the 20th century.
2. **Josh McDowell** - He wrote a paper in college on evidence to disprove Christianity with the title "*Evidence that demands a verdict*". In the end he kept that title but proved himself wrong and that Christianity is very true and valuable. Also, author of "More than a Carpenter". [Josh's story](#).
3. **Lee Strobel's** quest to disprove Christianity is now presented in the movie [The Case for Christ](#). He was a Pulitzer prize winning investigative journalist for the Chicago Tribune. When his wife became a Christian he set out to use his investigative skills to examine the evidence and proof to his wife that it was a lie. Instead he proved himself wrong and became a strong believer and well known apologist.
4. **J. Warner Wallace** was a homicide detective in Los Angeles. As an atheist he set out to use his investigative skills to

- evaluate the Gospels as potential eyewitness accounts of the life of Jesus. J. Warner Wallace conversion to Christianity. His best known work is called '*Cold case Christianity*'. His latest book is "Person of Interest" <https://personofinterestbook.com>
5. **Alister McGrath** was an atheist with multiple doctorates including molecular biophysics. He has been a professor at Cambridge, Oxford and others. Read his wikipedia page including His views. Alister McGrath: Why I realised my atheism was a mistake
  6. **Francis Collins** started his career as an atheist. He was the head of the human genome project. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francis\\_Collins#Views](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francis_Collins#Views)
  7. **Ravi Zacharias**. You Tube: "Ravi Zacharias Tells His Conversion" (start at 1:47).
  8. **David Wood** - You Tube: Why I Am a Christian (David Wood, Former Atheist's Conversion Testimony)
  9. **Nabeel Qureshi**. Wikipedia: "Nabeel Qureshi (author)". His testimony. He wrote Seeking Allah Finding Jesus.
  10. **Hugh Ross**. Began his career as an atheist. He is an astrophysicist who got his doctorate in astronomy from the University of Toronto and did research on quasars and galaxies, said scientific and historical evidence 'deeply rooted my confidence in the veracity of the Bible.' <https://www.premierchristianity.com/Past-Issues/2018/May-2018/How-studying-Hawking-s-Big-Bang-led-me-to-God>.
  11. **Fazale Rana**. <https://reasons.org/about/fazale-rana>. His testimony.
  12. **Anthony Flew** was the foremost outspoken atheist for over 60 years and was widely quoted by Neo-darwinists the likes of Richard Dawkins. He ended up writing a book entitled 'There is A God' in which he traces his journey from atheist to theist. His testimony.
  13. **Sir William Mitchell Ramsay, FBA** (15 March 1851 – 20 April 1939) was a Scottish archaeologist and New Testament scholar. By his death in 1939 he had become **the foremost authority of his day on the history of Asia Minor and a leading scholar in the study of the New Testament**. Although Ramsay was educated in the Tübingen school of thought (founded by F. C. Baur) which doubted the reliability

- of the New Testament, his extensive archaeological and historical studies **convinced him of the historical accuracy of the New Testament.**[1] From the post of Professor of Classical Art and Architecture at Oxford, he was appointed Regius Professor of Humanity (the Latin Professorship) at Aberdeen. Knighted in 1906 to mark his distinguished service to the world of scholarship, Ramsay also gained three honorary fellowships from Oxford colleges, nine honorary doctorates from British, Continental and North American universities and became an honorary member of almost every association devoted to archaeology and historical research. He was one of the original members of the British Academy, was awarded the Gold Medal of Pope Leo XIII in 1893 and the Victorian Medal of the Royal Geographical Society in 1906. [https://biblicalstudies.org.uk/pdf/ramsay/ramsay\\_gasque.pdf](https://biblicalstudies.org.uk/pdf/ramsay/ramsay_gasque.pdf)
14. **Frank Morison** (aka **Albert Henry Ross**) author of "Who Moved the Stone". Ross was skeptical regarding the resurrection of [Jesus](#), and set out to analyze the sources and to write a short paper entitled *Jesus – the Last Phase* to demonstrate the apparent myth. However, in compiling his notes, he came to be convinced of the truth of the resurrection, and set out his reasoning in the book. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Albert\\_Henry\\_Ross](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Albert_Henry_Ross)
  15. **Malcom Muggeridge** author of "Jesus Rediscovered and Chronicles of Wasted Time". [His Conversion to Christianity.](#)
  16. **Cosmologist Allan Rex Sandage**, <https://www.faithgateway.com/scientist-discovers-god/#.W1uhw6tOmhC> He won astronomy's version of the Nobel Prize, concluded that God is 'the explanation for the miracle of existence.'
  17. **Sir Fred Hoyle**, who devised the steady state theory of the universe to avoid the existence of God, eventually became a believer in an Intelligent Designer of the universe. He coined the term "Big Bang" to mock that theory, but the evidence ultimately convinced him. Though Hoyle declared himself an atheist, this apparent suggestion of a guiding hand led him to the conclusion that ["a superintellect has monkeyed with](#)

physics, as well as with chemistry and biology, and ... there are no blind forces worth speaking about in nature."

18. **Robert Jastrow**, a confessed agnostic and director of the Mount Wilson observatory and founder of the Goddard Space Institute, concluded the Big Bang points toward God. With the discovery of the Big Bang, Jastrow began to hold a belief that, "if there was a beginning to the universe, there was also a Creator."
19. **Robert Griffiths, a mathematical physicist** said: *'If we need an atheist for a debate, I go to the philosophy department. The physics department isn't much use.'*— Norman Geisler (from, *The Case for Faith*)
20. **Tom Holland** is an expert on ancient history <https://www.premierchristianity.com/Blog/St-Paul-s-depth-charge-.-Why-historian-Tom-Holland-changed-his-mind-about-Christianity>. "Why I changed my mind about Christianity"
21. **Athenagoras of Athens** was a Platonist philosopher who headed the Academic School in Alexandria. Then around 176 AD, Athenagoras became a Christian through reading Scripture (which he initially sought to refute). After his salvation, he wrote two works (that we know of) in defense of Christianity (*Embassy for the Christians*) and on the nature of man (*On the Resurrection of the Dead*). Unfortunately, little is known of Athenagoras, yet he stands among the great early Christian apologists. <https://drdannymcdonald.com/2019/02/26/is-christianity-rational-a-look-at-athenagoras-of-athens/> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Athenagoras\\_of\\_Athens?wprov=sfti1](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Athenagoras_of_Athens?wprov=sfti1)
22. **Matti Leisola** *"Heretic: One Scientist's Journey from Darwin to Design"* by Matti Leisola and Jonathan Witt. A few highlights from the review by Mind Matters editor Denyse O'Leary:  
Randomness and chaos are much easier to market today than order, meaning, and purpose. The songs write themselves. Serious scientists, therefore, can find themselves in conflict with a view that is not so much an argument as an attitude to life, not so much a marshaling of evidence as a demand that posturing overrule evidence.

Case in point: Matti Leisola, a gifted Finnish bioengineer, started out as a good Darwinist. But he could not avoid the massive pushback from the evidence of design he found in nature.

23. **Dr. Edward Feser:** Five proofs for the existence of God. Philosophy professor in Pasadena CA. Former atheist. <https://www.facebook.com/177676782406264/posts/1133344543506145/>
24. **George Lyttleton** was born in the small-town of Hagley, England in 1709. He was a prolific poet, Oxford graduate, and statesman who served as a member of Parliament. He had a friend by the name of Gilbert West. Living in the "Age of Reason" when deism was all the rage, West and Lyttleton were both critical of Christianity. (For those of you who don't know, deism rejects divine revelation and miracle claims. God created the world but doesn't intervene.) Together the two set out to disprove Christianity. They both agreed that the two strongest proofs for the faith were the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the conversion of Paul. So Lyttleton offered to disprove Paul's conversion, and West set out to discount the resurrection. After doing so, to their own shock, both became Christians. <https://isjesusalive.com/paul-liar-lunatic-dupe-or-genuine-eyewitness-of-the-resurrected-jesus/>
25. **John Dickerson:** "Jesus skeptic: A journalist explores the credibility and Impact of Christianity." <http://JohnSDickerson.com>.
26. **Jay Sekuloh.** How a Jewish Lawyer from Brooklyn Came to Believe in Jesus <https://jewsforjesus.org/our-stories/jay-sekulow-how-a-jewish-lawyer-from-brooklyn-came-to-believe-in-jesus/>
27. **Barak Lurie** is a former atheist. He is the host of The Barak Lurie Show, a big-picture look at politics, religion and law in the news. He advocates the importance of God in society, using reason, history and science to expose what he believes are atheists' flawed philosophies. His book Atheism Kills: The Dangers of a World Without God – and Cause for Hope is out now. <https://baraklurie.com>

All of these individuals started out to disprove the Bible and many are now its strongest advocates. They were determined to get to the truth and actively engaged the evidence and came away convinced of the Bible's truth enough to dedicate the rest of their lives to helping others realize it as well. They set out to disprove the Bible and instead proved it to themselves and many other people as well.

A few other people to consider who were **not** atheists but have much to say about the subject:

28. **Norman Geisler** [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Norman\\_Geisler](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Norman_Geisler)

29. **Frank Turek** was a student of Norman Geisler with whom he wrote the book [I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist](#)

## **What is the evidence?**

First let us consider another very important document: **The U.S. Bill of Rights**. What would keep this document from being corrupted? There are at least 14 original copies, one for the federal government, and one each for the 13 original states. They are all carefully kept secure. If someone wanted to change it, they would have to exactly duplicate the paper, the ink, and the state of the document. But, they would have to change all 14 copies in an identical way. Perhaps there are other original copies that are not well known. If a new one would be discovered it likely would not have been compromised.

All of the books of the New Testament were written within a lifetime of the death of Jesus of Nazareth by well known eye witnesses. Not so the so-called "other gospels," which were pseudepigraphical Gnostic works written 100-300 years later. To date we have **over 5800 Greek manuscripts of the New Testament, with an astounding 2.6 million pages of biblical text**. While some of these manuscripts are small and fragmentary, the *average* size of a New Testament manuscript is

450 pages. **Add to this the ancient manuscripts in Latin, Coptic, Syriac, Armenian, etc. which number in the tens of thousands**, and you realize that there is an embarrassment of riches when it comes to New Testament manuscripts. No other ancient text can compare with the New Testament when it comes to the sheer volume of manuscripts, nor when we consider how close the earliest manuscripts are to the originals. <https://biblearchaeologyreport.com/2019/02/15/the-earliest-new-testament-manuscripts/>.

Early texts are still being discovered. The Codex Sinaiticus is a fourth century complete copy of the Greek translation of the Old Testament (See LXX) That translation was done by Jewish scholars in the 3rd and 2nd century BCE. This particular copy was only discovered in 1844. The Dead Sea Scrolls were only discovered in 1947. While these are Old Testament texts, there are many New Testament equivalents. When they are compared with our modern manuscripts of the Bible there are only very minor differences. But, the sheer number of these documents can be used to validate our current text.

If someone had changed either the Old or New Testament texts, you would have to answer these questions to prove it:

- Who changed it?
- When was it changed?
- Which manuscripts got changed?
- What about the other thousands of manuscripts?



There is in fact a mountain of evidence that secular, Jewish, Muslim, and atheist scholars agree on. An interesting scholar who is well trained in Biblical text is Bart Ehrman. But in spite of the evidence he remains an agnostic atheist. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bart D. Ehrman](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bart_D._Ehrman).

**Don't take our word for it, Read it yourself.**

It is actually simple to engage the evidence itself and have a personal encounter with God in the process. The Holy Spirit of God convicts all people of their sinfulness. That often leads them to read the Bible in search of answers. It is not a logical proof or intellectual argument. It is God's own story of His love of all mankind and his plan to redeem all men. It is a story of God's personal guidance, blessing and redemption of all. If it is simply read as a story (suspending disbelief as needed) one can really get to know God and His character. While any person is reading the Bible the Holy Spirit is actively engaged with that person. Given that non-skeptical reading, one can then go back and start asking skeptical questions. The answers are available.

I would recommend starting with the straight forward gospel of Mark. It is only 30 pages and covers Jesus' whole life and ministry on this planet.