

Reasons to Follow Pt. 3

Pastor James Foley – Sunday, September 18, 2022

INTRODUCTION

Thank you for joining us! Whether you are here in person or joining via the livestream you are most welcome! Please have a Bible at the ready and be prepared to take notes as you like. We have much to cover in a rather short space of time.

SUMMATIONS

NOTE 1 – In recent days, my three-year old foster daughter initiated the following conversation (re: baptism)...

Q1. “Daddy, why did you put people under water?”

A. “Because Daddy is a Pastor and I baptize people.”

Q2. “Daddy, what is baptism?”

A. “Baptism is something people do when they choose to follow Jesus.”

Q3. “Why do people follow Jesus?”

Q4. “Why do YOU follow Jesus, Daddy?”

NOTE 2 – I found that I was not able to quickly answer this question (i.e., at least not in a way that our three-year old could readily understand). Yet as was noted, this question has stuck with me in recent days, stirring my heart and mind...

Q. Why have I chosen to follow Christ?

NOTE 3 – In recent weeks I have offered the following responses...

- 1) He Calls Me to ‘Walk on Water’ w/ Him
- 2) He Remains Both Able & Willing to Save
- 3) His Provision for Me is Holistic in Nature
- 4) The Ways of Christ Work (Healthful End)

NOTE 4 – Check out recent sermons and notes online at www.NewLifeBarre.org.

NOTE 5 – This morning I want to conclude this series with the following replies to the Q...

Q. Why do I follow Jesus?

KEY – It is my hope that my remarks inform and impact your own walk with Him! Let us delve in...

REASON #1

Q. Why do I follow Christ?

A. He provides me with meaningful purpose and direction...

So many are aimless and adrift in this life. They possess no sense of governing focus or ability to effectively answer the questions: “Why am I here? What am I to do with my life? How am I to live?” This is simply not the case for the Christian! Consider...

1) Macro Level

Let us consider our lives at the macro-level. God has provided both timeless and timely directives that offer necessary direction and meaningful purpose for this life, effectively answering the questions noted above: “Why am I here? What am I to do with my life? How am I to live?” For instance...

Matthew 22:37b–40 (Emphasis Mine)

37 . . . “**Love** the Lord your **God** with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ [Deut. 6:5]
38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: ‘**Love** your **neighbor** as yourself.’ [Lev. 19:18] 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

Ecclesiastes 12:13b–14 (Emphasis Mine)

13 . . . **Fear God** and **keep his commandments**,
for this is the **duty** of **all mankind**.
14 For God will bring every deed into judgment,
including every hidden thing,
whether it is good or evil.

Micah 6:8 (Emphasis Mine)

8 He has **shown** you, O mortal, what is good.
And what does the Lord **require** of you?
To **act justly** and to **love mercy**
and to **walk humbly** with your God.

1 Thessalonians 5:16–18 (Emphasis Mine)

16 **Rejoice** always, 17 **pray** continually, 18 **give** thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s **will** for you in Christ Jesus.

Matthew 28:18–20 (Emphasis Mine)

18 Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore **go** and **make disciples** of all nations, **baptizing** them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and **teaching** them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

KEY – If I know NOTHING else, everything noted herein gives my life much-needed focus and healthful direction!

2) Micro Level

Moreover, the Lord offers specific direction for each of us, effectively answering the questions, “Why am I here? What am I to do with my life? How am I to live?” in a far more tailored way. Please consider the following...

NOTE 1 – God has a unique calling upon your life (e.g., particular mission and purpose within His kingdom)...

Jeremiah 1:4–5 (Individual v. Universal Calling, Emphasis Mine)

4 The word of the Lord came to **me**, saying,

5 “Before I formed **you** in the womb I knew **you**,
before **you** were born I set **you** apart;
I appointed **you as a prophet** to the nations.”

NOTE 2 – God has uniquely gifted or equipped you to fulfill His good purpose in His kingdom...

Romans 12:3–8

3 For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. 4 For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, 5 so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. 6 We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; 7 if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; 8 if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

NOTE 3 – He is willing to impart necessary wisdom so that you might know and effectively execute His will...

James 1:5

5 If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

NOTE 4 – He is both able and willing to direct the paths that uniquely make up your life...

Proverbs 3:5–6

5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;
6 in all your ways submit to him,
and he will make your paths straight.

NOTE 5 – Lastly, the Lord has imbued everything in this life with a sense of eternal gravity and/or significance. This gives cosmic value and meaning to even the smallest of actions....

Matthew 10:42

42 And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward.”

SUMMATIONS

NOTE 1 – Sometimes the simplest questions yield the most profound of answers...

Q1. “Why do I follow Jesus?”

Q2. “Why do you follow Him?”

NOTE 2 – Consider carefully how you respond. Ultimately, I must close with the following...

Q3. “Have you decided to follow Jesus?”

NOTE 3 – There are temporal and eternal implications to your response. Choose wisely in Christ!

CONCLUSION

NOTE 1 – Feel free to give either in person or online at www.NewLifeBarre.org.

NOTE 2 – Please join us for our weekly Sunday School (9:15am) or Mid-Week Study (6:30pm).

NOTE 3 – Small-Group Ministries resume in September. Please check the website for particular info.

NOTE 4 – Next week we will be hosting a guest missionary (African Isle). A love offering will be collected.

2 Corinthians 13:14

14 May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.