

SERIES: *why?*

DATE: Saturday - Sunday, June 25-26, 2022

SERMON: Why Do We Trust Christ?

SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 3:8-18 NIV

[8] Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble.

[9] Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.

[10] For, "Whoever would love life and see good days must keep their tongue from evil and their lips from deceitful speech.

[11] They must turn from evil and do good; they must seek peace and pursue it.

[12] For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."

[13] Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good?

[14] But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened."

[15] But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,

[16] keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

[17] For it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.

[18] For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit.

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1. **Because Christ came from the _____.**

- **John 1:18** *No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.*
- Christ came to give us “_____”

2. **Because Christ became _____ for us and took _____.**

- **2 Corinthians 5:21** *God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*
- **Hebrews 9:25-26** *Nor did he enter heaven to offer himself again and again, the way the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood that is not his own. Otherwise, Christ would have had to suffer many times since the creation of the world. But he has appeared once for all at the culmination of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself.*

3. **Because Christ bestowed _____ on all who _____.**

- He came into our _____ and gave _____.

4. **Because Christ _____ the _____ of my life.**

- “I’m not all I ought to be but thank God I’m not all I used to be”
- Create your own _____.
1Corinthians 15:33 *Do not be misled: “Bad company corrupts good character.”*

5. **Because God _____ Christ and proved the power of His _____.**

Lagniappe

At our most recent congregational meeting, I reported to the church concerning our worship attendance, Connect Group attendance, and giving over the past few months.

I want to share these areas with all of you and update the information.

First, let's look at worship attendance. The following statistics come from the time of Mardi Gras weekend through last week. This is a very good time for comparisons because 2022 and 2019 (the last full year before the pandemic and the year of our highest attendance ever) are similar in terms of dates and events. By this I mean that both years are comparing Mardi Gras, Easter, and the Memorial Day weekend.

This is what we have found: We are actually averaging higher in 2022 than we did at the same time in 2019. During this time period in 2022 we have averaged almost 2300 in worship attendance.

Second, Connect Group attendance is also exceeding where we were in 2019, with an average attendance of almost 1500 each week in our weekend Bible studies.

I believe that our Connect Group participation helped "hold us together" during these difficult years. I thank God for all those who have led in Connect Groups along the way.

Third, our offerings have remained strong throughout the pandemic. Interestingly, this has been the case in most churches. At the same time that attendance was off significantly, giving was actually up.

We have been thankful to be a part of that trend so that we can move forward with *missions, evangelism, VBS, and summer camps*. It also means that we can move forward with paying off our debt and providing for the infrastructure needs that we have.

Finally, I want to give you a report about our Anchored Capital Campaign. We have had 413 families who have made commitments for the campaign. They have committed to give \$4,402,512.29 over the next three years. In addition, we have a number of families giving regularly without having made a commitment. If all the families giving and committed are able to complete their giving, we will receive over \$5.3 million over the next three years. That capital campaign giving will put us in a good position to move forward in ministry with sound financial footing.

I want to thank you and praise God for your faithfulness in attendance, giving, and in seeking to make Christ known around the world and in our community.

