



What is Christianity all about?

Acts 1:1-14

The Ascension of Jesus

¹ In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach ² until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. ³ After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. ⁴ On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. ⁵ For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." ⁶ So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷ He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹ After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. ¹⁰ They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ¹¹ "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven." ¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city. ¹³ When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴ They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

I. Christianity is about what Jesus has already done.

"In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day he was taken up to heaven ... Acts 1:1

What is the main thing He did? After his suffering, ... Acts 1:3
Jesus satisfies God's justice on our behalf.

For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. ... God did this to demonstrate his righteousness, for he himself is fair and just, and he makes sinners right in his sight when they believe in Jesus. Romans 3:25,26

II. Christianity is about that he proved to them He was alive.

"After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive." Acts 1:3

The whole group was startled and frightened, thinking they were seeing a ghost! ³⁸ "Why are you frightened?" he asked. ... Touch me and make sure that I am not a ghost, because ghosts don't have bodies, as you see that I do." Luke 24:37-39

NT Wright-

"In the last chapter of Luke's gospel Luke described some of the scenes of Jesus appearances. ...in a transformed body he could eat and drink as well as walk and talk, but which seemed to have ...some different properties. His body could, for instance, appear and disappear, and come and go through lock doors. It may sound as if he was a ghost, someone less than fully embodied. But what the writers are actually saying is that Jesus transformed body is now the beginning of God's new creation...the one where heaven and earth come together in a new way. A body that is fully at home on earth and also fully at home in Heaven."

Jesus has not just died and risen, he's also ascended.

After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. Acts 1:9

But the fact of the matter is that it is best for you that I go away, for if I don't, the Comforter (Holy Spirit) won't come. John 16:7

Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.

John 14:12

III. Christianity is believing the facts of Christianity are true.

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8

Suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them.¹¹ "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven." Acts 1:10,11

IV. Christianity is about the facts being true for you.

They will act religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly. 2 Timothy 3:5

Christianity is always an intersection of truth and power never one without the other.

Truth received will always exercise power in your life.

We must pay the most careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away. Hebrews 2:1

Guess who moved? It wasn't God.