**There is Hope Radio
Why Not Become a Christian-Part Two, Transcript
PreacherRichD**

Welcome to There is Hope Radio, our radio host is the Let's Get Real PreacherRichD of Creating Futures.

Welcome to There is Hope Radio. Broadcast last time was titled *Why Not Become a Christian*. We can continue that topic with *Why Not Become a Christian Part 2*. So we're going to cover some of the objections people have to not becoming a Christian and not believing in God.

Exciting news is I have Bobby on the line. My friend Bobby is going to share his own perspective, so we're going to have both of us sharing. So Bobby, thank you for joining me.

Very happy to be here.

And thank you that you're willing to do this again, because we actually did a show, but I didn't record it. That was a bummer. We're going to do it again. We may go a totally different direction. Who knows where God will take us, and we'll just have to believe that whatever we do on this time around was for those who are going to actually be listening to this recording. I'll get over the fact that I'm very disappointed that we didn't get the recording, but trust that God has something bigger and better to happen this time around.

Bobby: Amen.

Again, the title of the broadcast is Why Not Become a Christian Part 2, and what I had done previously in a previous recording was I talked about three main objections that individuals have about not becoming a Christian.

The first objection was Christians are hypocrites.
The second one was the concept of hell.

The third one was I'm too wicked to be a Christian.

And so Bobby, I know some of your objections about Christianity and why you didn't want to be a part of it, and you didn't believe in God. I don't want to take too much time on those three topics, and they're covered already, but just hit them real quick.

**Objection One: Christians are Hypocrites**
Did you ever say that or hear that from somebody else?

Bobby: Absolutely. Well, I just felt that way. I mean, I always go back to this, but I remember my childhood best friend's mom, she was a big Christian, and I just saw so much stuff that she was doing, and it was just like, well, what do you mean? You go to church, but then you're doing this and that, you know? So that was always what kept me out, too.

Bobby: It's like, oh, that whole... So I saw one person, and not to mention, like, you know, that the random Catholic priest or anything, you know, that you can always find one guy not doing something, so then I just condemned everybody, so. Yeah, and it's easy to find the one, right? And instead of looking at 25 Christians that are living right and five that aren't, we look at the five that aren't.

And a lot of people that claim to Christians aren't Christians, so I would argue that some of those hypocrites you see are not even born again.They don't even have a relationship with Jesus. They just claim to be Christians.

Bobby: You missed the entire forest because of the one tree?

Yeah, right. And then my answer to that was, we're all hypocrites, and so if you don't want to be in any kind of relationship with other people who are hypocrites, then you need to stay at home, and we ourselves have our own areas where we fall short, and so that's just a measuring stick that's too high that nobody could fit into.

**Objection Two: The Concept of Hell**
The second one is the concept of hell. There's those who don't like the idea that you have a choice either heaven or hell, and hell sounds like a mean, cruel place, and if that's what God wants for people to be at, then I don't want any part of that.

Tied to that is I don't like the fact that God sends people to hell. I did not cover that. I want to cover that in a moment here, but the concept of hell, I say I don't like the fact that there are Christians and a lot of preachers that focus more on hell than heaven, and it seems like everything is about hell, hell, hell, and there's consequences, and I want to know where that loving God is, and so I would say I think some emphasize hell so much.

We do have to talk about there as consequences for sin, and Bobby, for you, you've said that if there's a hell, there has to be a heaven. There's a heaven has to be a hell, but then you didn't believe in either at one time.

Bobby: Well, that's an interesting point, too, is that just as far as a teaching, not even a tool, but a teaching method, I'm not sure that it's very effective to scare somebody. You know, it's just never worked for me as a giant, as a huge manipulator. That worked so temporarily, you know, before, and I was always...

 So let's talk a little bit more, because that's my argument that I, and I covered some of that last time, is this is what I say. Fear is a very terrible motivator, and here's why. One, it doesn't last. The fear goes away, no matter how much fear you do put on somebody. Two, it matters who you're talking to as to how much fear you can put into them, and so if somebody's, quote, wimpy, it doesn't take much fear to get them stirred up, but it won't keep them stirred up, and somebody that's just evil, fear is not a motivator to them, because they're the ones that are bringing fear, and me working with people who struggle as drug addicts and stuff, they would argue, even though they're wrong, I'm already living in hell. Now, they're wrong. That just shows they don't understand having eternal punishment for eternity, and so they don't have the concept, but why don't you talk about the fact that, and if I understood you the way you're saying it, that you as a manipulator, so you found ways to get what you want by even scaring people, is that right?

Bobby: You know, or even working with alcoholics today, you know, it's just very ineffective. It just doesn't work, and you know, whether it was trying to save or trying to manipulate a girl into staying with me inside a relationship, or you know, trying to, whatever, trying to get my way at work or something like that, and the fear method I found quickly didn't work. It only worked temporarily and for very few people, so if that's the way people are going out to get people to turn to Christ, I just, I can't imagine that that translates very well. It certainly wouldn't.

And that's why I say, if that's your excuse, I get it. I don't blame you. Don't be around those kind of Christians. That's not Christianity. If you think that's what Christianity is, you're deceived. That is, the Bible says in 2nd Corinthians chapter 5, it says the love of Christ controls us, constrains us, impels us to die to self and live for Him. When you experience the love of God, you want to live differently, and the more you encounter His love, the more you have a deeper relationship with Father God, the more it compels you to want a different life. Love is a great motivator. I would say, Bobby, that's what changed you.

Bobby: 100%. Yeah, there was nothing. I mean, I had, you know, there's a little bit of fear that surrounds that, I suppose, you know what I mean? You know, I had a fear.

The closer you get to God, you realize how holy He is, and how unholy you are. The closer you get to God, you realize how much you fall short. That's the same with anybody. You have a wife, and you get closer and closer, you get to your wife, you realize how much of you are a loser at being a good husband. And so that's gonna be the same with God. But in the midst of that, He doesn't slap you in the face and say, you're a terrible lover. He turns around and says, I just got to show you more of my love, because when I show you more of my love, you'll love me more. What a concept, huh?

Bobby: Yeah. It's a beautiful thing.

**Objection Three: I'm too wicked to be a Christian**

I have too much evil in me, and I talk about the fact that people say, you know, I can't go to your church pastor, because if I walked in the church door, God would strike me dead, because I'm so evil. And then my argument is always, if you were so evil that God would strike you dead, He doesn't need you to walk in church. He can do that when you're walking down the street. And the good news is Jesus died for wicked, evil people, because in His eyes, sin is sin. And my sin is no worse than your sin, and as far as my sin will keep me from heaven, your sin will keep you from heaven. But Jesus died for all sin. And so the argument, I'm too wicked, that's just a lie from the pit of hell. Do you want to say anything about that?

Bobby: Well, yeah, I would say that that would just come from naivety. I truly thought, like, yeah, there's no way that, like, just because, you know, just because I had taken the Lord's name in vain, and I told a bunch of people this and that about Him, and I mean, you know, all the bad stuff I was doing. I thought if I ever went to church, you know, I would be met by a bunch of old ladies who just wouldn't like me. And that was just gonna kick me out.

 And can I tell you, there's some churches, if you go, there will be a bunch of old ladies that will kick you out.

Bobby: That is the truth in some churches.

But then, isn't it interesting, it's funny you said that, isn't it interesting, and we, you know, we don't have no time to talk about your story, and how me and you ultimately met and all that, but ultimately it was you going to a clean and sober housing program that we have. But isn't it interesting, the guy that didn't believe in God, the guy that thinks he's too wicked, gets into a clean and sober house, and part of the requirements is to attend a church service, and I'm the pastor, and it's full of a bunch of old ladies that just loved you.

Bobby: Loved me so much, I could just cry. They were just great.

Maybe, somebody that's using the objection, I'm too wicked to be a Christian, maybe you need to find a place, and God will lead you to the right place to find out of the love of God, and it's different than what you think it may be.

And Lord God, I just want to pray that whoever may be listening and ending, that they're too dirty, they're too filthy, they're too evil, they're too wicked, there's no way that God could love them, there's no way other Christians could love them. I pray, Father God, for some divine appointments just like Bobby had. I prayed that, Lord, you put them in situations where they are wrapped with the love of God in such a way they cannot deny that it's real, and that if it's real, then maybe God is real, and if God is real, maybe the Bible is true, and if the Bible is true, maybe Jesus does want to be my Savior. Maybe God does want me to go to heaven, and maybe I do need to repent of my sins and turn from my wicked ways, and that God will give me the grace to be able to walk in victory. And so I pray that you instill that faith, and whoever may be listening, Lord, that this applies to them. We pray this in Jesus' name, amen.

Bobby: Amen.

Okay, and so now let's get some of the new ones.

I'm gonna cover all of them. I'm gonna give all of them out there, and then Bobby, you pick which one you want to hit on, and it may be the same thing we talked about, because it's a big one. So here's some reasons that individuals say why they would not become a Christian.

Objection-Because of the suffering and the evil in the world, because God's not just, because what about those people who haven't heard about Jesus? That means they're going to hell. That Aborigine in Australia is gonna go to hell because they haven't heard Jesus. So God's unfair. God is unjust, just like suffering and allowing suffering. Evil is unjust, unfair.

Objection-Another one people say is the Bible's filled with errors, so you can't trust it. So why would I trust that there is a Jesus, and that he died for my sins?

Objection-Others would argue that the loss of freedom, if I become a Christian, I'm gonna lose my free will, and I'm gonna lose my freedom to do what I want to do, and then you're gonna want me to live a life that's gonna be boring.

Objection-God sends people to hell, not understanding that God doesn't send people to hell. People choose to reject Christ that leaves them in hell.

Objection-Others say the negative impact of Christianity, because they talk about all the bad things they hear in the news about people that call themselves Christians, talk about wars that Christians were involved in.

Objection-Some is, I'm good enough, I'm so good, I don't need God.

Objection-And then others is because they have another faith, another religion.

So Bobby, which one would you like to hit on? Which one would you like to tackle? And it could be the same thing we did earlier or whatever.

Bobby: What I hear a lot, and this is like the most, when I watch my little debate shows or anything, that they always jump to, they pick out some line out of the Bible where it says like, you should take many slaves, or you should go and, I heard this one in the Old Testament, where you should go and like kill all the women and children in the village. And then they'll say, oh yeah, how could, like you take that, and how could God, yeah, I don't want to be a part of that God.

**Objection Four Stumbling Over the Bible**
It is an argument that either that the Bible's filled with many errors, because it says that God is good, and then turn around and encourages war, or they're confused about Bible doctrine. And I think that's a big one, is if you're confused on the teachings of the Bible, you're going to misinterpret things.

And so let me, no way can we cover all those objections, and I wouldn't even try, but let me share something here. When it comes to, I'm not, I don't want to become a Christian because of the doctrine of the Bible, because of things that I've read in the Bible. So let me explain something to you.

If you are not born again, you don't have the Spirit of God living in you, that you're not reading the Bible from cover to cover, that you are going by what you hear on a podcast, or you hear somebody say, if you go by all those things, understand something. You are trying to understand spiritual concepts without having a relationship with the God that authored the Bible. And so your concept of what you read is going to be based upon how you interpret who God is. If you have a wrong interpretation of God, you're going to have a wrong interpretation of what His Word says. And then put that in the natural sense, is that even in a relationship between me and my wife, if we don't have a close intimate relationship, she is going to say something, I am going to misread it, and the next thing you know, we don't talk for three days. And the reality is, either she didn't say it, or she didn't mean it the way that it sounded, or I misinterpreted it. Who knows what all that is, but it's a mess. And now our relationship is broken because there's a mess because of a misunderstanding. And so tie that into, again, the Bible. Does that make sense, how I'm trying to make it practical?

Bobby: A hundred percent, absolutely. You could take any book, you could take, I mean, it just doesn't matter, and you could find one line in it that just sounds a little off, and when that's the only line that you're reading, without reading all that's up to it, or, I mean, it's just, it's really easy to do that with anything, with any written piece, anything.

Well, because if you have that, now I would say, I argue that the Bible is inerrant, that there's nothing in the Bible that's not accurate, it isn't true, and we could talk about translations and all that, that would be a different topic. But this is what I want to say, is you said, anything you read, you're gonna find something that either doesn't make sense, it seems like conflict, all those kind of things, and I would argue it especially happens if you're antagonistic to what you're reading.

Bobby: Right.

So let me give an example, I use this all the time.I did okay with algebra in school, but geometry just wiped me out. I absolutely hated geometry, so when I went from high school to college, I was going to, I was going for a degree in police science with a minor in biology, and my, ultimately I wanted to work in crime lab scenes and stuff like that, but you had to take a higher level geometry, but not only geometry, you had to take trigonometry. I am a 3.8 student, and I'm getting the D in trig, so guess what, I have an absolute disdain for any geometry book, and I did not want to read any geometry, I just figured it was useless.

How many people you hear say the Bible is useless, they have no use for it, and then they pick up the Bible, and they find a verse they don't understand, don't like, and then they throw the Bible out.

Bobby: My girlfriend, not a Christian, she comes up with, she says stuff, and then I'll point it out to her, oh yeah, see that's just, that's a spiritual principle, that's just Christian principle, and it just gets tossed. Well yeah, I just came up with that by myself or whatever.

Right. So it's very interesting. And this is what I would say, is when you start about Christianity and the Bible, it talks about the Trinity, it talks about we're born with the concept of original sin, that all of us are born sinners. Some people don't like that, they were all born sinners, they think that babies aren't born sinners. Give a baby any length of time, and you'll see that a baby is very self-centered, and cares about itself, and it's just human nature, all of that stuff. That Jesus could be the Son of God, and still be God. Why did God support certain wars? Why did God actually command to kill the innocent? We have no time to cover all those things. But this is what I'll say, is if you're antagonistic towards being a Christian because of those things, at least acknowledge that maybe you're misinterpreted things, don't understand some things, and do not let your confusion of the Bible, or confusion of Bible doctrine, rob you from having a relationship with Jesus Christ.

So an example is with Bobby, all this stuff with Bobby, and no concept of, he didn't even believe in a God, he comes to a place where he's exposed to the things of God, he's exposed to Christianity. Bobby ends up, by faith, because of a variety of different circumstances, comes to a knowledge of Jesus Christ. And Bobby, a lot of this stuff, you still don't understand it, but it isn't a stumbling block to you. Why is that? You may not understand why did God say kill all the innocent children and women? You do not understand the concept behind that, what was going on, we don't have time to cover all that, I'd love to cover that topic, but why doesn't that stop you from being a Christian? Why doesn't that stop you from serving God?

Bobby: I know God's goodness, and I know that I know, I know that I don't know. And if I, I know that when I went to go learn about a topic, I go and I study it, and I learn it. So anytime I've been confused about that, I go and I learn about it. And then when I get a little context from somebody who knows a lot more than me, it makes perfect sense. And I've been wrong so many times, and I've been proven wrong, all my old beliefs have been just proven blatantly wrong. Now I just know, okay, well one, the God I serve is all loving, and that's never floundered. So that's the main thing. But then when I go and dig into this stuff, I find that, oh, okay, I can completely see that, and I was wrong.

Yeah, and here's the other thing that comes with it, you see, because God is loving, then whatever I don't understand, there's got to be some healthy motive, God don't have ulterior motives. So if He's a God of love, everything He'd do is out of love, even though we don't understand it. So there may be things that we don't understand, we don't have the fuller picture, but if He's God, I better not understand everything. Because if I understand everything, He's no longer God, He's just another human being. So if there isn't some things about God's character, His nature, about His Word, the Bible, that I don't understand, that tells me that He must be God, and I'm not.

Bobby: Well, am I incorrect in saying that the Bible is written, some of it's written in poetry, some of it's written in metaphors, some of it's written...

Yeah, yeah, yeah. There's symbolism, and that's where studying the Bible, you start to understand where, what is to be taken literal, what isn't to be taken literal, what was a parable, you know, all those different things.

Bobby: Right.

Here's the thing we can, from all of it, there's biblical principles out of everything, and those biblical principles will help us to live a more healthy whole life, will make us better human beings, make us more loving and kind, to be able to reach and touch others. And if we grab the principles, we cannot go wrong. If we're going to get stuck, we're going to be getting stuck on the minors and not focusing on the majors.

And it's not minor that God, listen, it's not minor that God commanded to kill all the women and children, and we'll have to cover that sometime in one of our broadcasts. There is a reason for that, and part of that reason was it had to do with the nation of Israel, and what He needed to do in them, the fact there were false gods, and what was happening to the nation, there's all kinds of different things that go through that. And guess what, there is at times there are just wars, and that could be another topic that there's just wars, and sometimes there is that you don't get to choose who dies in the midst of war. That's the sad part about war, no matter what you may do. And that's another topic, right? And if all those things are going to just hang you up, instead of looking at all the goodness of God, all the great things about God, again looking at His love instead of His judgment, you're going to miss out on a whole lot.

Well, we have run out of time, and we got to end this broadcast, and as we end the broadcast, I just want to speak to those who are listening.

If you're struggling, you have questions about the Bible, you have questions about Christianity, you've lived (Bobby), I lived as an atheist that did not believe in God, and our last broadcast that we didn't record, I talked about the fact that I know for me the number one thing that stopped me from believing in God was being a narcissist. I believe all of us have some narcissism, and it's about me, me, me, and maybe you're listening, and in spite of the me, me, me in you, in spite of the objections, something's been shared, something we talked about has brought some clarity to you, and something within you is tugging on your heart that maybe you should consider Christianity. Maybe you believe in a God, and maybe now it's time that you need to look at Jesus becoming your Lord and Savior to really acknowledge that I am a sinner, that Jesus died for my sins, that Jesus rose from the grave to conquer sin and death so that I could get to heaven, and if I just put my trust in Him and say, God mold me, shape me, and change me, that God will do an amazing work in your life.

Bobby's testimony we've done radio shows, Bobby of his story, testimony of myself, where God has changed us, and God can do the same for you. He can transform your life, and so Lord, I just pray, Father, for whoever's listening, that your Holy Spirit will work on their heart, and that you accomplish what you want to accomplish. Your will will be accomplished in their life, and we pray this in Jesus' name.

Bobby: Amen.

Bobby, thank you for joining with me today.

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