

I will testify to the Risen Savior
Derek's Story
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Not long ago I believed instant gratification, money, status and respect was basically all there was to life. My mentality was derived from an atheistic worldview which ultimately ended in despair. It seemed as if I was the man rolling the proverbial stone up to the top of the cliff only to have it roll back down and thus continue the futile process, day in and day out. I was convinced there was no ultimate meaning to life, there was nothing that separated our death from the death of a cockroach, in the end we experienced just the grave, or so I thought.

This frame of mind or worldview led to a destructive lifestyle that consisted of daily drinking, marijuana, and other heavier drugs as time progressed. I was full of hate, rage, depression and suicidal tendencies. I was morally bankrupt, but it was difficult to suppress my conscience that kept warning me I was living wrong. I began to question the concept of right and wrong and morality itself. According to my previous worldview (Atheism) everything was subjective, there was no such thing as objective moral values.

Therefore, living like Mother Teresa or Adolph Hitler was simply a matter of preference.

What on earth did it matter if I became a CEO or a homeless person, I said to myself, when I die it is like I never existed in the first place.

However, I was denying what it meant to be human, I knew deep inside that I was running or rebelling from something...or someone.

One night, after passing out drunk on the streets, I staggered home and just sat downstairs dwelling in the darkness. Finally there was nothing to distract me and I confronted myself honestly, and the guilt was overwhelming.

I fell to my knees and burst into tears and all I remember was saying "God help me" & "Jesus I am sorry".

As soon as I repented of my sins, I began to feel this warmth throughout my entire body, and instantaneously my tears dried up and my groans of anguish ceased.

The next day, I woke up and my perspective on everything began to change. Meaninglessness was replaced with meaning, futility was replaced with purpose, and anger and hate was replaced with compassion and love.

As I am writing this testimony with tears streaming down my face, I can now admit that without Christ, there is no hope. He doesn't offer us what the world does, no; He offers us infinitely more... He offers us Himself.

Even though I was completely immoral and willfully sinful, I realize that morality apart from Christ is simply not enough.

I still have trouble comprehending the love of Christ, how He bore the wrath of God upon the cross in order to reconcile us to a Holy God, our heavenly Father. Now, despite our sinful nature we can have access into the presence of God through the cleansing blood of Christ. This gift of eternal life is truly immeasurable and I would only be a fool to reject it.

As I continue to mature, I realize that being a disciple of Christ is no easy task, but He has given us His Holy Spirit so, it is no longer I who lives, but Christ in me.

In conclusion, I am a Christian because I know Christ has conquered the grave. So, I now ask the question, "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?"
(1 Cor. 15:55)