

The Almost Christian Exposed

Signs of Life

Close Calls and Crucial Consequences

The Irony of Belief

- John 2:23–25 (ESV) — 23 Now when he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he was doing. 24 But Jesus on his part did not entrust himself to them, because he knew all people 25 and needed no one to bear witness about man, for he himself knew what was in man.

The Irony of Belief

- “Believed” in his name = pisteuo (Gk)
- “Entrust” (“on his part did not entrust himself to them”) = pisteuo (Gk)

The Irony of Belief

- John 20:30–31 (ESV) — 30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

The Almost Christian

- King Agrippa – Acts 26
- Young man – Matthew 19
- Five virgins – Matthew 25

The Almost Christian

- Matthew 7:21–23 (ESV) — 21 “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22 On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ 23 And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’”

What did Jesus know?

- John 2:24–25 (ESV) — 24 But Jesus on his part did not entrust himself to them, because he knew all people 25 and needed no one to bear witness about man, for he himself knew what was in man.
 - Nathanael – John 1.47-49

What did Jesus know?

- About the human mind?
 - Romans 1:21–22 (ESV) — 21 For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools...

What did Jesus know?

- About the human mind?
 - Psalm 64:5–6 (ESV) — 5 They hold fast to their evil purpose; they talk of laying snares secretly, thinking, “Who can see them?” 6 They search out injustice, saying, “We have accomplished a diligent search.” For the inward mind and heart of a man are deep.

What did Jesus know?

- About the human will?
 - Matthew 23:37 (ESV) — 37 “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!

What did Jesus know?

- About human emotions?
 - Genesis 4:3–7 (ESV) — 3 In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground, 4 and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, 5 but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell. ...

What did Jesus know?

- About human emotions?
 - Genesis 4:3–7 (ESV) — ... 6 The LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? 7 If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it.”

What did Jesus know?

- About the human body?
 - Romans 7:14 (ESV) — 14 For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin.
 - Romans 7:21–23 (ESV) — ... 22 For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, 23 but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members.

What did Jesus know?

- About the human heart?
 - Jeremiah 17:9 (ESV) — 9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?
 - Romans 1:25 (ESV) — 25 because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.
 - Calvin: “fabricum idolarum” – idol factories

What did Jesus know?

- Romans 3.10-18
 - Sin is universal
 - Sin is pervasive

Are you “Almost” or “Altogether”

- 2 Corinthians 13:5 (ESV) — 5 Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test!
- Philippians 3:3 (ESV) — 3 ... worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh—

