

Eric Straw's Testimony

As shared at Corban College, 2002

As a new faculty member, I have been asked to share my testimony. And, the official word from the boss is "keep it short."

In order to keep it short I am going to abandon the traditional testimony, which would have me telling you *how*. *How* I arrived at this point in my life. *How* I became a Christian. Instead, I want to tell you *why*. *Why* I am a Christian. *Why* I serve our God.

There is a section in Corban's statement of faith entitled "The true God."

Listen, with me as I share with you what this true God says about himself.

GOD said . . .

I form the light and create darkness, I bring prosperity and create disaster; I, the LORD, do all these things. (Isaiah 45:7)

My own hand laid the foundations of the earth, and my right hand spread out the heavens. (Isaiah 48:13)

With my great power and outstretched arm I made the earth and its people and the animals that are on it, and I give it to anyone I please. (Jeremiah 27:5)

I am the LORD, who has made all things, who alone stretched out the heavens, who spread out the earth by myself. (Isaiah 44:24)

Who has a claim against me that I must pay? Everything under heaven belongs to me. (Job 41:11)

I am the LORD, the God of all mankind. Is anything too hard for me? (Jeremiah 32:27)

I the LORD do not change. (Malachi 3:6)

I, the LORD, speak the truth; I declare what is right. (Isaiah 45:19)

Yes, and from ancient days I am he. No one can deliver out of my hand. When I act, who can reverse it? (Isaiah 43:13)

Can anyone hide in secret places so that I cannot see him? Do not I fill heaven and earth? (Jeremiah 23:24)

I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please (Isaiah 46:10)

I am the LORD your God, who teaches you what is best for you, who directs you in the way you should go. (Isaiah 48:17)

For I am the LORD, your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, do not fear; I will help you. (Isaiah 41:13)

I am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more. (Isaiah 43:25)

I am the LORD, and apart from me there is no savior. (Isaiah 43:11)

To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal? (Isaiah 40:25)

I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. (Isaiah 46:9)

This is what the LORD says, the LORD almighty: I am the first and I am the last; apart from me there is no God. (Isaiah 44:6)

Be still and know that I am God. (Psalm 46:10)

So, *why* am I a Christian? *Why* do I serve this God? My answer is, how could I not? *He is GOD!*

A.W. Tozer wrote, “What comes into our minds when we think of God is the most important thing about us.”

I would add that life truly begins by recognizing who God is. Everything in life that we think and do *must* first begin with a clear and true understanding of God.

He Lives

(Word Music, Inc.)

I serve a risen Savior, He's in the world today;
I know that He is living, whatever men may say;
I see His hand of mercy, I hear His voice of cheer,
And just the time I need Him, He's always near.

He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today!
He walks with me and talks with me
A-long life's narrow way.
He lives, He lives, salvation to impart!
You ask me how I know He lives?
He lives within my heart.