

## ARE YOU A CHRISTIAN ?

### Int.

1. Aim: To understand and appreciate what it means to be a Christian.
2. Acts 11:26 "And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch."
3. Are you an American? Are you married ? Are you a Christian? "I hope so, I guess" !  
Should be able to answer in the same way.
4. The name Christian is only found three times in the Entire Bible.
  - A. **Acts 11: 26 ; Acts 26:28 ; I Peter 4:16.**
  - B. The word Christian is Defined as.. ."a person who believes in the doctrines of Christ and acknowledges His divinity, a person having the qualities expected of one who professes Christianity." (Webster's Dictionary p. 175) "A Follower of Christ" = Greek
6. Are you a Christian ??

### Discussion

#### I. IF YOU ARE A CHRISTIAN YOU ARE ALSO...

- A. Disciple - Acts 11:26
  1. A learner or pupil - accepting or believing what the teacher says
  2. A follower, student
- B. Priest 1 Pet.2:5 "Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ."
  1. A priest is one who offers worship to God

2. Jesus is the High priest and all Christians are priests under him

### C. Saint

1. Phil 4:21 "Salute every saint in Christ Jesus. The brethren which are with me greet you."
2. Refers to our Character - sacred, holy
3. Christians are saints:
  - a. Does not mean perfection - Strive to live godly
  - b. Paul called the Corinthians "saints" 1 Cor. 1:2 - but they had faults

### D. Soldier

1. II Tim.2:1-4 - We can expect conflict as a Christian - endure hardness
2. We can wear the armor of a Christian - Eph. 6

### E. Heirs

1. We expect to receive an inheritance
2. Rom. 8:17 "And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with [him], that we may be also glorified together."

## **II. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A CHRISTIAN ?**

A. I am justified, redeemed and forgiven - in relation to God

1. To be "justified" means to be made right.
  - a. Like a condemned, guilty criminal standing before the judge who says, "Not guilty." - justified
  - b. "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Rom. 5:1).

2. To be "redeemed" means to be bought back.
  - a. I am purchased from sin, Satan and the kingdom of darkness.
  - b. "In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins" (Col. 1:14).
  - c. "he hath purchased with his own blood" (Acts 20:28).
  - d. "For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's" (1 Cor. 6:20).
  
3. Forgiven
  - a. This means we have our sins removed, blotted out, washed away
  - b. Ps. 103:12 "as far as the East is from the West"
  - c. Our past sins will be remembered no more
  - d. Rom. 4:7-8 [Saying], Blessed [are] they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. 8 Blessed [is] the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin. - I impute = reckon in asv

## B. New creature - in relation to self

1. Born again
  - a. John 3:3-5
  - b. The New Birth indicates that we have made some major changes in our life
  - c. Rom. 6:11-12 "Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. 12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof."

## 2. New Creature

- a. 2 Cor 5:17 "Therefore if any man [be] in Christ, [he is] a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."
- b. The old man of sin is dead - a new man has been born - the old things are no longer appealing to us - we are looking for new things
- c. Col. 3:2 "Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth."

### **III. WHAT DOES THE NAME CHRISTIAN MEAN ?**

- A. Many claim that the word "Christian" was a term invented by men
  1. They say that it was first used by Pagans as mockery of the early believers in Christ
  2. It is claimed that the Lord's disciples were called "Christians" in derision or scorn by their enemies
- B. The name "Christian" is of divine origin
  1. Isaiah prophecies that there will be a New Name
    - a. I sa. 56:5 "Even unto them will I give in mine house and within my walls a place and a name better than of sons and of daughters: I will give them an everlasting name, that shall not be cut off."
    - b. I sa. 62:2 "And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory: and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the LORD shall name."
    - c. I sa. 65:15 "And ye shall leave your name for a curse unto my chosen: for the Lord GOD shall slay thee, and call his servants by another name:"

2. The first time the name was used is recorded in Acts 11:26
  - a. By this time, Christ has come, has given his blood for the sins of the world, and has been resurrected from the dead and ascended back to heaven.
  - b. The church has now been established and the gospel is being preached among the nations. Thus, the stage is set for the giving of this new name, and in Acts 11:26 we read, "The disciples were called Christians first in Antioch."
  - c. This was between 40-44 AD - Paul and Barnabas were the ones who used this name "CHRISTIAN" They were directed by God to use it.
  - d. Paul went to Antioch to help Barnabas - they taught the people and these disciples were called Christians first here at Antioch.
  - e. This congregation was the first one to be composed of both Jews and Gentiles
  - f. So The New Name is applied by Paul. The fulfillment of the promise made by Isaiah 600 years earlier

3. It was not first used by the enemies in scorn, but by Paul to describe God's people

C. The name Christian means....

1. "A follower of Christ" - "One belonging to Christ" - "Imitate Christ"
2. It means to be like Christ - denoting attachment to or adherents of Christ
3. Every time the word CHRISTIAN is spoken the name of CHRIST is spoken also!
4. In the Old Testament the name Israel contained the name of God, "el", and thereby glorified God. The name Christian contains the name of Christ and gives him glory.

D. Use of the name Christian

1. It always refers to a person, never to an abstract object

2. It is never used as an adjective to describe an institution
3. If you can't baptize it, it cannot be a Christian
4. The disciples were called Christians when they obeyed the gospel
  - a. Believed - Mark 16:16
  - b. Repented of their sins - Acts 2:38
  - c. Confessed Christ as Lord - Rom. 10:10
  - d. Were baptized for the remission of sins - Mk. 16:16 - Acts 2:38

### **Conclusion**

1. Being called a Christian does not make one a Christian in the sight of the Lord.
  - a. Doctor Zeus, has since the beginning of his writings claimed this title of "Doctor".
  - b. However in a documentary on His life it was told how that he attended medical school for a short time and then quit, but he liked the title of "Doctor" and thus calling himself Doctor Zeus.
2. Just claiming that you are a "Christian" does not make you anymore of a Christian than Doctor Zeus claiming to be a doctor made him a doctor.
3. Was He a Christian ?

**WAS HE A CHRISTIAN?**

Once upon a time there was a man who called himself a Christian. But he was indeed an unusual "Christian."

On Monday while he was at work, something went wrong. He forgot about God and cursed and swore, taking the Lord's name in vain.

On Tuesday while making a business transaction, he misrepresented an article and took undue advantage of the other fellow.

On Wednesday he heard something evil about his brother, so he told it to another, making it sound even worse than what he had heard.

On Thursday he went to a friend's house for a drink or two, and lost a couple of dollars. "A cheap night's entertainment," he said.

On Friday he became angry at everyone with whom he was working. They all wanted something different from what he wanted. They were all wrong.

On Saturday his grocer made a mistake and did not charge him for a pound of butter. That was the grocer's fault.

On Sunday he went to church services, but his mind was not on the worship. On Sunday night he stayed home.

How do you think he ranks as a Christian? If the shoe fits you in any of these points, then mend your ways.

#### 4. Are You a Christian?

## 5. Who is a Christian ?

### Who Is a Christian ?

Christians live in their own native lands, but as aliens; as citizens, they share all things with others; but like aliens, suffer all things. Every foreign country is to them as their native country, and every native land as a foreign country. They marry and have children just like every one else; but they do not kill unwanted babies. They offer a shared table, but not a shared bed. They are at present "in the flesh" but they do not live "according to the flesh." They are passing their days on earth, but are Citizens of heaven. They obey the appointed laws, and go beyond the laws in their own lives. They love every one, but are persecuted by all. They are unknown and condemned; they are put to death and gain life. They are poor and yet make many rich. They are short of everything and yet have plenty of all things. They are dishonoured and yet gain glory through dishonour. Their names are blackened and yet they are cleared. They are mocked and bless in return. They are treated outrageously and behave respectfully to others. When they do good, they are punished as evildoers; when punished, they rejoice as if being given new life. They are attacked by Jews as aliens, and are persecuted by Greeks; yet those who hate them cannot give any reason for their hostility. To put it simply-the soul is to the body as Christians are to the world. The soul is spread through all parts of the body and Christians through all the cities of the world. The soul is in the body but is not of the body; Christians are in the world but not of the world.

From an anonymous Letter to Diognetus. Possibly dating from the second century

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