

WHAT IS A CHRISTIAN ?

Int.

1. Aim: To give a summary of what Paul says a Christian is like.
2. If you are a christian you can also be called:
 - a. Disciple - Acts 11:26 ----- learner
 - b. Saint - Rom. 1:7 ----- character
 - c. Light - Mt. 5:16 ----- example
 - d. Soldier - II Tim. 2:3 ----- strong
 - e. Pilgrim, Priest, King, Child, Heir
3. Paul summarizes what Christian living is all about in Tit. 2:11-13
 - a. "For" - reaches back to whole chapter - all people
 - b. "Grace of God" - that bringeth salvation
 - (1) We deserve eternal punishment - because of sin
 - (2) God's mercy gives us eternal life
 - (3) Salvation = Christian
 - (4) Mercy and salvation go together - Eph. 2:8
 - c. "To all men"
 - (1) Universal - male and female - young and old - rich and poor
 - (2) 2 Pet. 3:9
 - (3) All people could be saved by the mercy of God
 - (4) Salvation is open to all men, but man accepts or rejects as he sees fit. ¹
 - (5) Appeared - Christ came and died - Heb. 2:9 - He opened the door and pointed the way for man to return to the Father.

d. "Teaching us..."

(1) Educating or training us - 2 Tim. 3:16 "...instruction..."

(2) The grace of God educates us on how to live

(3) God's saving grace has a moral effect on our lives

4. Teaches us:

a. Negatively -- deny

b. Positively -- live

Discussion

I. DENYING..... [negatively]

A. Deny

1. Forsake - renounce

2. To turn from them

3. Say no!! to these things

B. Double denial

1. Ungodliness

a. Lack of reverence and respect for God

b. Rom. 1:18-32 idolatry and immorality

c. The grace of God that brings salvation teaches us to reject these things

2. Worldly lusts

a. Work of the present world - that are evil

- b. Jn. 7:7 "...the works thereof are evil..."

- c. 1 Jn. 2:15-16
 - (1) Lust of the Flesh
 - (2) Lust of the Eyes
 - (3) Pride of life

- d. Lust = love in wrong direction -- wrong desires

- e. Worldly passions - strong sinful desires - life on earth

- f. Yearning for:
 - (1) Forbidden Pleasure
 - (2) Power
 - (3) Possessions

C. As Christians we are to deny ourselves these things - we must turn away from them. -
Col. 3:2

D. Christians are living a new life

1. We are not good simply by what we give up -- the negative
2. But by what we take up !! - the positive

II. WE SHOULD LIVE [Positively] - Matt. 22:37-39

A. Soberly ---- How we treat self

1. Self - control -- self restraint
2. Not give way to passion and lusts
3. I Pet. 5:8 "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:"

4. How are we to treat ourselves ?
 - a. Soul - salvation - obey gospel
 - b. Fruitful Christians
 - c. Overcome temptations
 - d. Balanced thinking - speech, behavior, recreation, apparel
5. We must live soberly before we can live righteously.
6. He cannot do his duty to his fellow man until he discharges those he owes to himself. We must live soberly first!!

B. Righteously -- How to treat others

1. Just -- fulfills obligations to fellow man
2. Mt. 7:12 "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets."
3. Fair honest dealing with all men
4. How do we do it ?
 - a. Help them in need physically !
 - (1) Jas. 1:27a "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this,
To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction,..."
 - (2) Jas. 2:15-17 --- faith minus works is dead
 - (3) Matt. 25
 - b. Helping those in need spiritually
 - c. Lost sinner - Matt. 28:19-20 Mk. 16:15

d. Lost brother - Jas. 5:19-20 Gal. 6:1

C. Godly --- How to Treat God

1. Devotion and reverence to God
2. With God, in God, for God - godlikeness - not self righteous
3. Opposite of ungodliness - governed and controlled by God's will not our wishes!
4. Eccl. 12:13-14
5. 1 Jn. 5:3 "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments; and his commandments are not grievous."
6. III. Godliness can be compared to the blood in the human body. We cannot see the blood circulating through our bodies, but we know that it is for we can see the results. It is basic to life. Godliness is the circulation in the soul. It's fruits are clearly seen. It is more than obedience. Godliness is a desire to be like God and we obey his commandments from love not duty. ²
7. W.W.J.D. ? What would Jesus do ?

CONCLUSION

1. A Christian is one who:
 - a. Denies (1) Ungodliness and (2) Worldly lusts
 - b. And Lives (1) Soberly, (2) Righteously (3) and Godly in this present world
2. If we faithfully perform our duties to:
 - a. Self
 - b. Others
 - c. God

3. Then we can be "Looking for that blessed hope and glorious appearing of the great God and our savior, Jesus Christ." Tit. 2:13
 - a. We believe He will return
 - b. We look for His return
 - c. We are Ready for His return
4. Are you a Christian?
 - a. Excuses will not work on judgment day
 - b. We will all appear - why not go as a Christian ??

End Notes

1. Gospel Advocate Commentary on Titus p. 277
2. Annual Lesson Commentary Oct. 15, 71 p. 272

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