

# I Want To Be A Christian

## I. The Most Glorious Thing To Be

### A. What I Am

White, Man, Son, Father, Citizen, American, Texan, etc. - circumstances of birth.  
Driver, Preacher, Computer User, Avid Reader - things I choose to be.

### B. What I'm Not

Black, Again, Lithuanian, daughter, mother, etc. – circumstances of birth.  
Thief, Drunk, Idolater, Fornicator - habitual sins – things I choose not to be/

### C. What I've Been

Boy, Student, Cook, Driver, Delivery Boy, Clerk, Resident Assistant, - jobs  
Expatriate, Foreigner, renter, Apartment Dweller, - where I've lived  
Speeder, Lied, Cheated, Cursed, Apathetic, Proud, - sins I've committed  
I've been A Sinner – and not only me.

**Rom. 3:9-18** “What then? Are we better than they? Not at all; for we have already charged that both Jews and Greeks are all under sin;

**10** as it is written, “THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE;

**11** THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS, THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD;

**12** ALL HAVE TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME USELESS; THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD, THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE.”

**13** THEIR THROAT IS AN OPEN GRAVE, WITH THEIR TONGUES THEY KEEP DECEIVING,” “THE POISON OF ASPS IS UNDER THEIR LIPS”;

**14** WHOSE MOUTH IS FULL OF CURSING AND BITTERNESS”;

**15** THEIR FEET ARE SWIFT TO SHED BLOOD,

**16** DESTRUCTION AND MISERY ARE IN THEIR PATHS,

**17** AND THE PATH OF PEACE HAVE THEY NOT KNOWN.”

**18** THERE IS NO FEAR OF GOD BEFORE THEIR EYES.”

**1 Jn. 8-10** “If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**9** If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**10** If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.”

### D. What I Want To Be Above All Else

A Christian

## II. Why I Want To Be A Christian

### A. What is a Christian?

3 verses mentions Christians in the N.T.

#### 1.) Disciples called Christians

**Acts 11:26** “and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. And it came about that for an entire year they met with the church, and taught considerable numbers; and the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.”

## 2.) Paul Persuaded Men To Be Christians.

**Acts 26:22-29** “And so, having obtained help from God, I stand to this day testifying both to small and great, stating nothing but what the Prophets and Moses said was going to take place;

**23** that the Christ was to suffer, and that by reason of His resurrection from the dead He should be the first to proclaim light both to the Jewish people and to the Gentiles.”

**24** And while Paul was saying this in his defense, Festus \*said in a loud voice, “Paul, you are out of your mind! Your great learning is driving you mad.”

**25** But Paul \*said, “I am not out of my mind, most excellent Festus, but I utter words of sober truth.

**26** For the king knows about these matters, and I speak to him also with confidence, since I am persuaded that none of these things escape his notice; for this has not been done in a corner.

**27** King Agrippa, do you believe the Prophets? I know that you do.”

**28** And Agrippa replied to Paul, “In a short time you will persuade me to become a Christian.”

**29** And Paul said, “I would to God, that whether in a short or long time, not only you, but also all who hear me this day, might become such as I am, except for these chains.”

## 3.) We Might Suffer As Christians

**1 Pet. 4:1-19** “Therefore, since Christ has suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same purpose, because he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,

**2** so as to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.

**3** For the time already past is sufficient for you to have carried out the desire of the Gentiles, having pursued a course of sensuality, lusts, drunkenness, carousals, drinking parties and abominable idolatries.

**4** And in all this, they are surprised that you do not run with them into the same excess of dissipation, and they malign you;

**5** but they shall give account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

**6** For the gospel has for this purpose been preached even to those who are dead, that though they are judged in the flesh as men, they may live in the spirit according to the will of God.

**12** Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you;

**13** but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing; so that also at the revelation of His glory, you may rejoice with exultation.

**14** If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.

**15** By no means let any of you suffer as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler;

**16** but if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not feel ashamed, but in that name let him glorify God.

**17** For it is time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?

**18** AND IF IT IS WITH DIFFICULTY THAT THE RIGHTEOUS IS SAVED, WHAT WILL BECOME OF THE GODLESS MAN AND THE SINNER?

**19** Therefore, let those also who suffer according to the will of God entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.”

## B. Why Be One?

### 1.) Disciples - a follower of Jesus.

In that is a great reward.

**Matt. 25:31-40,46** “But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne.

**32** “And all the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats;

**33** and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left.

**34** “Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

**35** ‘For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in;

**36** naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.’

37 "Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You drink?'"

38 'And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You?'"

39 'And when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?'"

40 "And the King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.'

41 "Then He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels;

42 for I was hungry, and you gave Me nothing to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me nothing to drink;

43 I was a stranger, and you did not invite Me in; naked, and you did not clothe Me; sick, and in prison, and you did not visit Me.'

44 "Then they themselves also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not take care of You?'"

45 "Then He will answer them, saying, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.'

46 "And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

## 2.) Paul Wanted People To Be One.

Paul spoke to get people to come to Christ.

**Acts 26:27-29** "King Agrippa, do you believe the Prophets? I know that you do."

**28** And Agrippa replied to Paul, "In a short time you will persuade me to become a Christian."

**29** And Paul said, "I would to God, that whether in a short or long time, not only you, but also all who hear me this day, might become such as I am, except for these chains."

Paul spoke for God in this.

**2 Cor. 5:18-20** "Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ, and gave us the ministry of reconciliation,

**19** namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

**20** Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were entreating through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

## 3.) Christianity may be hard, but the alternative is worse.

**2 Thess. 1:5-10** "his is a plain indication of God's righteous judgment so that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which indeed you are suffering.

**6** For after all it is only just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you,

**7** and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire,

**8** dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

**9** And these will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,

**10** when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed--for our testimony to you was believed."

**Matt. 25:41-46** "Then He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels;

**42** for I was hungry, and you gave Me nothing to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me nothing to drink;

**43** I was a stranger, and you did not invite Me in; naked, and you did not clothe Me; sick, and in prison, and you did not visit Me.'

**44** Then they themselves also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not take care of You?'"

**45** Then He will answer them, saying, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.'

**46** And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

### III. How I Can Be A Christian

#### A. Follow Christ, Be His Disciple

Follow only Him because He has the "*words of life.*"

**John 6:66-69** "As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew, and were not walking with Him anymore.

**67** Jesus said therefore to the twelve, "You do not want to go away also, do you?"

**68** Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life.

**69** And we have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God."

#### B. How Can I Truly Follow Him?

##### 1.) Must Hear The Gospel

**Rom. 10:10-17** "for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.

**11** For the Scripture says, "WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED."

**12** For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call upon Him;

**13** for "WHOEVER WILL CALL UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED."

**14** How then shall they call upon Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?

**15** And how shall they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, "HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING GLAD TIDINGS OF GOOD THINGS!"

**16** However, they did not all heed the glad tidings; for Isaiah says, "LORD, WHO HAS BELIEVED OUR REPORT?"

**17** So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ."

##### 2.) Must Believe the Gospel

**Rom. 10:14** "How then shall they call upon Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?"

**John 3:16** "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life."

Believe...*should not* perish.

**John 8:24** "I said therefore to you, that you shall die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am He, you shall die in your sins."

Believe or die in sins.

**Heb. 11:1,2,6** "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

**2** For by it the men of old gained approval.

**6** And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him."

w/o faith we cannot please God.

##### 3.) Repent of Sins

Christ came to save *from* sin, not *in* sins.

**Acts 2:38** "And Peter said to them, "Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

**Acts 3:19** "Repent therefore and return, that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord"

**Luke 13:1-5** "Now on the same occasion there were some present who reported to Him about the Galileans, whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.

**2** And He answered and said to them, "Do you suppose that these Galileans were greater sinners than all other Galileans, because they suffered this fate?

**3** I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.

**4** Or do you suppose that those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, were worse culprits than all the men who live in Jerusalem?

**5** I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."

#### 4.) Confess Jesus As Christ

Call on Him as Lord.

**Rom. 10:13** “for “WHOEVER WILL CALL UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED.”

Confess Him before men.

**Luke 12:8,9** “And I say to you, everyone who confesses Me before men, the Son of Man shall confess him also before the angels of God;

**9** but he who denies Me before men shall be denied before the angels of God.”

#### 5.) Be Baptized

**Rom. 6:1-11** “What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace might increase?

**2** May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it?

**3** Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?

**4** Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

**5** For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection,

**6** knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, that our body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin;

**7** for he who has died is freed from sin.

**8** Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him,

**9** knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him.

**10** For the death that He died, He died to sin, once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God.

**11** Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

**Mark 16:16** “He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.”

#### I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN, DO YOU?

Please do this, and keep doing what is right.

**Heb. 5:9** “And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation”

**Rev. 2:10** “Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.”