

Being A Christian

Focus on the three passages where Christian is mentioned

Introduction

- Often and rightly so we focus on becoming a Christian
- Many believe they have become Christians when in reality they have not
- The Scriptures clearly reveal the only way we are to become Christians
- All other ways are false, will not make us Christians

2

The Truth About Becoming A Christian

Act 2:36 "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ--this Jesus whom you crucified."

Act 2:37 Now when they heard *this*, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?"

3

The Truth About Becoming A Christian

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

4

The Truth About Becoming A Christian

Act 8:35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture he preached Jesus to him.

Act 8:36 As they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch *said*, "Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?"

5

The Truth About Becoming A Christian

Act 8:37 [And Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."]

Act 8:38 And he ordered the chariot to stop; and they both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch, and he baptized him.

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Introduction

- Now if we have become a Christian, how must we live to be a Christian?
- We will briefly study the three passage where the word Christian is mentioned in the New Testament
- In these, we will gain much in what it means to be a Christian which we must continually do in order to please the Lord

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Unashamedly Persuade Others To Become A Christian

Act 26:16 'But get up and stand on your feet; for this purpose I have appeared to you, to appoint you a minister and a witness not only to the things which you have seen, but also to the things in which I will appear to you;

Act 26:17 rescuing you from the *Jewish* people and from the Gentiles, to whom I am sending you,

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Unashamedly Persuade Others To Become A Christian

Act 26:18 to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.'

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Unashamedly Persuade Others To Become A Christian

Act 26:19 "So, King Agrippa, I did not prove disobedient to the heavenly vision,

Act 26:20 but *kept* declaring both to those of Damascus first, and *also* at Jerusalem and *then* throughout all the region of Judea, and *even* to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds appropriate to repentance.

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Unashamedly Persuade Others To Become A Christian

Act 26:21 "For this reason *some* Jews seized me in the temple and tried to put me to death.

Act 26:22 "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;

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Unashamedly Persuade Others To Become A Christian

Act 26:23 that the Christ was to suffer, *and* that by reason of *His* resurrection from the dead He would be the first to proclaim light both to the *Jewish* people and to the Gentiles."

Act 26:24 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."

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Unashamedly Persuade Others To Become A Christian

Act 26:25 But Paul *said, "I am not out of my mind, most excellent Festus, but I utter words of sober truth.

Act 26:26 "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.

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Unashamedly Persuade Others To Become A Christian

Act 26:27 "King Agrippa, do you believe the Prophets? I know that you do."

Act 26:28 Agrippa *replied* to Paul, "In a short time you will persuade me to become a Christian."

Act 26:29 And Paul *said*, "I would wish 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."

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Unashamedly Persuade Others To Become A Christian

- Instead of defending himself, Paul seeks to persuade Agrippa and others to renounce their sins and become Christians
- Paul did not want to be like them, rich and powerful, but wanted them to be like him, a Christian, except for his chains
- We too should want people to become like us, Christians, renouncing sin and turning to obey the Lord Jesus

15

Unashamedly Persuade Others To Become A Christian

- If we are not a Christian, we should be ashamed of whatever we are and give that up to be A Christian
- When we persuade others to be a Christian, we should not be ashamed and not envy them in any way

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Unashamedly Persuade Others To Become A Christian

Mat 28:18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

Mat 28:19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,

Mat 28:20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

17

Unashamedly Persuade Others To Become A Christian

Rom 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

18

Suffer For Christ As He Did For Us

1Pe 4:12 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;

1Pe 4:13 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.

19

Suffer For Christ As He Did For Us

1Pe 4:14 If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.

1Pe 4:15 Make sure that none of you suffers as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler;

1Pe 4:16 but if *anyone suffers* as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name.

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Suffer For Christ As He Did For Us

- Christians are to rejoice in suffering in doing right, not for evil, looking forward to the glory ahead
- We must live our lives patterned after the Lord who suffered for us and is now exalted in Heaven
- We should not be ashamed of the Christian life which honors God even though it brings persecution

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Suffer For Christ As He Did For Us

1Pe 2:21 For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps,

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Suffer For Christ As He Did For Us

Act 5:41 So they went on their way from the presence of the Council, rejoicing that they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for *His* name.

Act 5:42 And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they kept right on teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.

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Remain True To The Lord Who Called Us

Act 11:19 So then those who were scattered because of the persecution that occurred in connection with Stephen made their way to Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except to Jews alone.

Act 11:20 But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who came to Antioch and *began* speaking to the Greeks also, preaching the Lord Jesus.

24

Remain True To The Lord Who Called Us

Act 11:21 And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a large number who believed turned to the Lord.

Act 11:22 The news about them reached the ears of the church at Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas off to Antioch.

25

Remain True To The Lord Who Called Us

Act 11:23 Then when he arrived and witnessed the grace of God, he rejoiced and *began* to encourage them all with resolute heart to remain *true* to the Lord;

Act 11:24 for he was a good man, and full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And considerable numbers were brought to the Lord.

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Remain True To The Lord Who Called Us

Act 11:25 And he left for Tarsus to look for Saul;

Act 11:26 and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. And for an entire year they met with the church and taught considerable numbers; and the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.

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Remain True To The Lord Who Called Us

- In Antioch, we read they were called (Divinely called by God) Christians
- But, denominationalism insists we be called Christians plus something else like Baptist or Methodist
- Why be called something that God never calls us?
- Why not be content with the Divine calling of Christian?

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Remain True To The Lord Who Called Us

- Christians are followers of Christ who seek to remain true to the one who called them by the gospel
- Therefore, we follow the apostles' teaching not the teaching of men

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Remain True To The Lord Who Called Us

Act 2:41 So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls.

Act 2:42 They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

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Being A Christian

1. Unashamedly persuade others to become a Christian
2. Suffer for Christ as he did for us
3. Remain true to the Lord who called us