

FACTS YOU MUST FACE

Life Is Short: *"Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble. He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down: he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not" (Job 14:1-2). "Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away" (James 4:14). Therefore it is of utmost importance that you take care of the most important things first, now, while you have a chance.*

Death Is Certain: *"And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment" (Heb. 9:27). "And all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years: **and he died**" (Gen. 5:5). Life has clearly shown every one of us the surety of death. Consider long and hard what will happen to you after death.*

Eternity Is Long: *"And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal" (Matt. 25:46). Hell will last just as long as heaven. There is no end to either. To which ever you shall go, there you shall stay!*

Judgment Is Sure: *"And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works" (Rev. 20:12). "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad" (II Cor. 5:10). No slipping through the cracks, you will stand before the judgment seat!*

There Is Only One Way To Be Saved: *"O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps" (Jer. 10:23). "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6). "And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him" (Heb. 5:9).*

Now The Ball Is In Your Court: *"Choose ye this day whom ye will serve" (Josh. 24:15).*

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AM I REALLY A CHRISTIAN?

The story is told of the little boy who after coming home from Sunday services asked his dad, "Dad, what is a Christian?". After a few minutes of deliberation, he told his son that a Christian was one who faithfully followed the teachings of Christ; One who had learned the Bible, worshipped God regularly, worked to spread Christianity and gave sacrificially to the cause. The little boy thought about it for a minute or two and then asked, "Dad, have I ever seen one?".

The above little story indicates a truth that far too many "so called" Christians have yet to see. One can go around wearing the name "Christian" on his lips without ever being a Christian. The first time that the word "Christian" is found in our Bible is in Acts 11:26 where it says that "the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch". The dictionary defines the word "disciple" as, "One who subscribes to the teachings of a master and assists in spreading them" (The American Heritage Dictionary). There are three important points we wish to note from this definition.

The first and second we will combine. A Christian is one who subscribes to the teachings of Christ. One cannot subscribe to that which one does not know. Thus, it is required of one that would be a Christian that he or she learn those teachings of the Lord. The master in our definition is Christ. Having all authority (Matt. 28:18), a Christians will of necessity have to be obedient to Christ. Jesus Himself asked, "And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" (Luke 6:46).

The third important point is that the disciple, thus the Christian must be assisting in spreading the teachings of their master, Christ. "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15). Jesus said, "Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away..." (John 15:2).

Friend, just calling yourself a Christian does not make you one! Being a member of some institution that bears the name "Christian" makes neither the institution nor the members of that institution, Christians. It takes obedience to the truth of God's word to make real Christians. However, even for those who have obeyed the truth of God's word to become a true Christian, it takes continued obedience to God's word to remain pleasing in His sight. Examine yourself and see if you are really a Christian.

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