

## THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

Acts 26:27-29: “King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you do believe.” Then Agrippa said to Paul, “You almost persuade me to become a Christian.” And Paul said, “I would to God that not only you, but also all who hear me today, might become both almost and altogether such as I am, except for these chains.”

### I. THERE ARE AT LEAST FIVE REASONS FOR BECOMING A CHRISTIAN.

#### A. SINNERS ARE UNFIT TO MEET GOD.

1. Heb. 10:31: It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.
2. Rom. 5:12: Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned --

#### B. GOD HAS PROVIDED SALVATION.

1. 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 everlasting life.
2. I John 1:7: But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

#### C. GOD OFFERS YOU SALVATION NOW.

1. 2 Cor. 6:2: For He says: “In an acceptable time I have heard you, and in the day of salvation I have helped you.” Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.
2. Matt. 11:28-30: Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.

#### D. LIFE IS UNCERTAIN.

1. I Sam. 20:3: Then David took an oath again, and said, “Your father certainly knows that I have found favor in your

eyes, and he says, 'Do not let Jonathan know this, lest he be grieved.' But truly, as the Lord lives and as your soul lives, there is but a step between me and death."

2. James 4:14: whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.
3. Luke 12:16-21: Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?' So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.'" "But God said to him, 'You fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?' "So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

E. ETERNAL DESTRUCTION AWAITS THOSE REJECTING CHRIST.

1. 2 Thess. 1:7-9: and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power.

II. WHAT MUST A PERSON DO IN ORDER TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN.

A. HEAR THE GOSPEL.

1. Rom. 1:16-17: For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."
2. Rom. 10:14-17: "How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent. As it is written:

“How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace,

Who bring glad tidings of good things!”

But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed our report?” So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

3. I Cor. 1:21: For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.

B. BELIEVE THE GOSPEL.

1. Rom. 10:17: So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the world of God.
2. Heb. 11:6: But 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 diligently seek Him.
3. Rom. 10:10: For with the heart one believes to righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made to salvation.
4. 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.

C. REPENT OF SINS.

1. Acts 17:30-31: “Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all, by raising Him from the dead.”
2. Luke 13:3,5: “I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish. ... I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.”
3. Acts 2:39; 3:19: “For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.”

“Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that time of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,”

D. CONFESS FAITH IN CHRIST.

1. Rom. 10:9-10: that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes to righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made to salvation.
2. Matt. 10:32: “Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven.”
3. Luke 12:8: “Also I say to you, whoever confesses Me before me, him the Son of Man also will confess before the angels of God.”
4. Acts 8:37: Then 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.”
5. I John 4:15: Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

E. BAPTIZED FOR REMISSION OF SINS.

1. Acts 2:38: Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”
2. I Pet. 3:21: There is also an antitype which now saves us, namely baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
3. John 3:5: Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.
4. Gal. 3:27: For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

### III. THERE ARE FOUR FUNDAMENTAL NEEDS OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE.

#### A. TO KNOW.

1. Hosea 4:6: My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.
2. John 8:32: “And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”
3. 2 Tim. 2:15: Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.
4. 1 Pet. 3:15: But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to anyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.

#### B. TO GROW.

1. 2 Pet. 3:18: But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.
2. 1 Pet. 2:1-2: Therefore, laying aside all malice, all guile, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby.
3. Heb. 5:12: For thou by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food.

#### C. TO GLOW.

1. Matt. 5:16: “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”
2. Phil. 2:15: That you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world.

3. Eph. 5:8-10: For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), proving what is acceptable to the Lord.

D. TO GO.

1. Matt. 28:18-20: Then Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.
2. Mark 16:15-16: And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned."
3. Acts 1:8: "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

IV. **THERE ARE THREE THINGS WHICH THE DEVIL WANTS TO DO.**

A. KEEP YOU OUT OF THE CHURCH.

(Illustrations: Agrippa and Felix) Some more convenient time.

B. GET YOU BACK INTO THE WORLD.

1. 1 Tim. 4:10: For to this end we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe.
2. James 4:4: Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.
3. 1 John 2:1: My little children, these things I write to you, that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

C. RENDER YOU WORTHLESS TO THE CHURCH.

1. John 15:2: “Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.”
2. 2 Cor. 5:10: For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

V. **THERE ARE FOUR WAYS TO KEEP FROM BACKSLIDING AFTER BECOMING A CHRISTIAN.**

A. LET GOD SAY SOMETHING TO US EVERY DAY.

1. Ps. 1:1-2: Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night.

B. SAY SOMETHING TO GOD EVERY DAY.

1. James 5:16: Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

C. SAY SOMETHING FOR GOD EVERY DAY.

1. James 5:19-20: Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.

D. DO SOMETHING FOR GOD EVERY DAY.

1. Gal. 6:10: Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.
2. I Cor. 15:58: Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

VI. **THE CHRISTIAN LIFE PAYS HERE AND IT PAYS IN THE LIFE TO COME.**

- A. If there be no hereafter - the Christian has not lost anything.

- B. It is the most meaningful life possible to live.
- C. The Path of the faithful Christian leads at last to Abode of God.

“Almost Cannot Avail  
Almost is But to Fail  
Almost, that Bitter Wail  
Almost - but Lost.”