

GOD'S WORD

WHO IS A "CHRISTIAN"?

WHO does JESUS say will go to heaven?

Glen C. Robertson

10 There are, it may be, so many kinds of voices in the world, and none of them is without significance.

I Corinthians 14:10 The BIBLE

THERE ARE MANY different voices throughout the world who claim that they are, "*Christian*," and that they will therefore go to heaven. They all have their own reasons, and their own logic that makes sense to them.

- In Lebanon and the Middle East, "*Christian*," defines your culture/social group/neighbourhood.
- Roman Catholics and Orthodox often term themselves, "*Christian*," because they began as such.
- Mormons and so-called, "Jehovah's Witnesses," or people referring to those groups, often refer to them as, "*Christian*," because they use much of the same terminology and follow many similar practices as actual, "Christians."
- A person may refer to himself as, "*Christian*," because he occasionally or often attends church services.
- A person may refer to himself as, "*Christian*," because he is nice, does good works, or is, "a good person."
- A person may refer to himself as, "*Christian*," because his parents were, or referred to themselves as such.
- A person may refer to himself as a, "*Christian*," because he once prayed, "the Sinner's Prayer," or responded positively at an evangelistic meeting or invitation.
- A person may refer to himself as a, "*Christian*," because he agrees with some things said or done by Jesus or His followers.
- A person may refer to himself as, "*Christian*," because an official document or organization requires some such kind of identification or differentiation from others.
- A person may refer to himself as, "*Christian*," to differentiate himself from other religions or cultures.
- People may refer to themselves as, "*Christian*," because they were born in the Western World.

But, according to JESUS, NONE of the above in fact defines a, "*Christian*," a true follower of His on earth, a person who will go to heaven rather than hell, after his life on earth! JESUS said, in fact, that there are *few* actual, "*Christians*!"

13 Enter ye in at the narrow gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and **few there be that find it!**

Matthew 7:13-14 The BIBLE

Rather, JESUS Himself defined what makes and defines His followers, those who will eventually go to heaven to be with Him (those who would eventually be termed, "*Christian*" ¹) – and those who will not.

The Jews (the, "*Children of the Kingdom*," of Israel) had thought that their race and laws would guarantee them a seat in heaven. Speaking even to their religious leaders, the 'holy ones,' Jesus said:

23 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.

Matthew 23:23 The BIBLE

11 And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven.

12 But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Matthew 8:11-12 The BIBLE

Jesus said that many so-called, "*Christians*," are mistaken in their belief that they will go to heaven!

20 Wherefore **by their fruits ye shall know them.**

21 **Not every one that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of My Father Which Is in heaven.**

22 Many will say to Me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Thy Name? and in Thy Name have cast out devils? and in Thy Name done many wonderful works?

23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from Me, ye that work iniquity.

24 Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of Mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

Matthew 7:20-24 The BIBLE

¹ (The term, "*CHRISTIAN*," was first coined in the ancient Asia-minor city of Antioch - Acts 11:26 - to refer to followers of Christ. Literally, it means, "*LITTLE CHRIST*;" in English, it might be directly translated as, "*CHRISTLET*," much as one might use, "*booklet*," for, "*little book*," or, "*tablet*," to describe a small table. Because, in Greek, the suffix, "*ion*," was added to a word to accomplish what, "*let*," does in English; for instance, "*paidion*," means a little, "*paidi/child*," or, "*little child*." No doubt, the nickname was intended to be derogatory, much as, "*leaderlet*," is sometimes used to suggest that someone is a weak or ineffective leader, etc. But, just as, "*Yankee*," "*Canuck*," and, "*Redneck*," were originally intended as derogatory nicknames, but were adopted by those against whom they were used, "*Christian*," has been enthusiastically adopted by the followers of Christ.)

3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, **Except a man be BORN AGAIN, he cannot see the kingdom of God.**

4 Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?

5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, **Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.**

6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which **is born of the Spirit** is spirit.

7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, **Ye must be BORN AGAIN.**

8 The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

9 Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be?

10 Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things?

11 Verily, verily, I say unto thee, We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen; and ye receive not our witness.

12 If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?

John 3:3-12 The BIBLE

In other words, just like Nicodemus, many religious leaders have incorrect ideas, or in fact no idea at all, of what actually *does* define a "Christian!"

Jesus said that a man must be **TOTALLY transformed by God Himself!** A man must be **BORN AGAIN**, and **made a TOTALLY new creature**, to contain and exemplify the truth of God, becoming a, "Christian." A man must be **supernaturally and miraculously transformed by Jesus**, and reflect Jesus as *Jesus* would wish. It is a **transformational work by the Holy Spirit of God**, that comes after one has repented of his sins, and relied on *Jesus* to make him a new man, holy and accepted by God.

21 No man also seweth a piece of new cloth on an old garment: else the new piece that filled it up taketh away from the old, and the rent is made worse.

22 And no man putteth new wine into old bottles: else the new wine doth burst the bottles, and the wine is spilled, and the bottles will be marred: but new wine (*the Gospel message of Jesus*) must be put into new bottles (*a man transformed by Jesus*).

Mark 2:21-22 The BIBLE

3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, **Except a man be BORN AGAIN, he cannot see the kingdom of God.**

John 3:3 The BIBLE

The Apostle Peter repeated this message:

22 Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth **through the Spirit** unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:

23 **Being BORN AGAIN**, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, **by the Word of God**, Which liveth and abideth for ever.

I Peter 1:22-23 The BIBLE

The Apostle Paul, also, said:

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

2 And be not conformed to this world: but **be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind**, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Romans 12:1-2 The BIBLE

21 If so be that ye have heard Him, and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus:

22 That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

23 And **be renewed in the spirit of your mind;**

24 **And that ye put on the new man, which AFTER GOD is created in righteousness and true holiness.**

Ephesians 4:21-24 The BIBLE

And therefore, all those mistaken definitions of the so-called, "*Christian*," that we listed at the beginning of this message, are indeed false; *none* of them actually defines *the*, "*Christian*!" What defines *the*, "*Christian*," Jesus says, is whether he is **BORN AGAIN, becoming transformed, and made a new man by Jesus!**

10 And have **put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of Him that created him:**

11 Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ Is all, and in all.

Colossians 3:10-11 The BIBLE

This **transforming and renewing**, this act of becoming **BORN AGAIN**, *cannot be done by man, himself*; it can be done in us *only by the Holy Spirit of God/Jesus!* So you're invited to visit www.Alelujah.com, which will lead you through the Bible, showing you how *Jesus* says you can **become BORN AGAIN by the Spirit of God**, how you can **become a, "Christian,"** this transformative relationship with our Heavenly Father, Himself, *through Jesus Christ!*

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