

# WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A CHRISTIAN?

**Luke 9:23-26, 57-62**



**WALKING IN HIS STEPS**

SERMON SERIES: **GROWING IN CHRIST**

## Luke 9:23–26 (NKJV)

<sup>23</sup> Then He said to *them* all, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. <sup>24</sup> For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it. <sup>25</sup> For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost? <sup>26</sup> For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in His *own* glory, and *in His* Father’s, and of the holy angels.

## Luke 9:57–62 (NKJV)

<sup>57</sup> Now it happened as they journeyed on the road, *that* someone said to Him, “Lord, I will follow You wherever You go.” <sup>58</sup> And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes and birds of the air *have* nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay *His* head.” <sup>59</sup> Then He said to another, “Follow Me.” But he said, “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.” <sup>60</sup> Jesus said to him, “Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and preach the kingdom of God.” <sup>61</sup> And another also said, “Lord, I will follow You, but let me first go *and* bid them farewell who are at my house.” <sup>62</sup> But Jesus said to him, “No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”

# What Becoming **A Christian** Is All about



“let him deny himself,  
and take up his cross  
daily, and follow Me.”

## ▶ It's **NOT ALL** about **ME** —

- I was ruined by sin — Rom 3:9-20,23,27; 6:23; Eph. 2:12,13
- I am completely undeserving of God's mercy and grace — Rom 5:8-10; Titus 3:1-5
- I deserve condemnation, not God's love, forgiveness, acceptance, & glorification — Eph. 2:1-9; 2 Tim 1:8-12
- Being a Christian is **NOT ABOUT** being **MATERIALLY** blessed — Rom 8:17,18

# What Becoming **A Christian** Is All about



“let him deny himself,  
and take up his cross  
daily, and follow Me.”

## ▶ **IS ALL about JESUS —**

- **IDENTIFICATION:** The name I wear as a disciple (Acts 11:26)
- **ASSOCIATION:** A member of HIS body (Mt. 16:18; Acts 2:47; Ep. 1:22,23; 5:23-25; etc.)
- **RELATION:** My Lord & Savior, whom I love, humbly follow, and obey (Luke 6:46; John 14:23,24; Col. 3:17)
- **CONSECRATION:** He died for me, therefore I live for Him (2 Cor. 5:14,15)

# What It Means To Become A Christian



“let him deny himself,  
and take up his cross  
daily, and follow Me.”

- ▶ **HEAR** — receiving the true gospel message (Luke 8:11ff; Acts 2:14-38; Romans 10:17).
- ▶ **BELIEVE** — conviction / confidence / submission (John 3:16; 8:24; 1 John 5:13; Hebrews 11:6).
- ▶ **REPENT** — change of mind & action (Luke 13:3,5; Acts 17:30; Romans 3:23; 6:23; 2 Cor 7:8-11).
- ▶ **CONFESS** — stated public allegiance (Matt. 10:32; Luke 12:8; Acts 8:37; Rom. 10:9,10).
- ▶ **BAPTISM** — we are cleansed & joined to Christ (Mk 16:16; Ac 2:38; 22:16; Ro 6:3-6; Ga 3:26,27; Co 2:12,13)
- ▶ **FAITHFUL** — we live for Christ - we serve Him. (Lk 6:46-49; 9:23-26, 57-62; 14:25-34; Jn 15:1-10; Phili 3:7-16)

# What It Means To BE A Christian

## A DISCIPLE

- ▶ Diligent **Student** – Mat 4:4; 5:6; Act 17:11; 2 Tim. 2:15
- ▶ Enthusiastic **Adherent** - John 6:66-69; 8:31,32
- ▶ An **Imitator** - Mat. 10:24,25; Luke 6:40
- ▶ Becomes Closely **Associated** – Mat. 12:46-50; John 15:14
- ▶ Fully **Committed** – Luke 9:23-25; 57-62; 14:25-33

# What It Means To BE A Christian

## DESCRIPTIVE TERMS of A CHRIST FOLLOWER

- ▶ A **SHEEP** – hears & follows (Ac 20:28; Jn 10:1 ff)
- ▶ A **CHILD** – resemblance / submission / inheritance (Eph. 5:1; Jn 3:3, 5; Gal. 3:26-29; Rom. 8:17)
- ▶ A **SOLDIER** – fight the good fight (2 Tim. 2:3-4; 2 Cor. 10:4)
- ▶ A **LABORER / STEWARD** – diligently work (Mat 20:1-16; 1 Pt 4:10)
- ▶ A **BRANCH** – bear fruit (John 15:1-10; Rom. 11:16-24)
- ▶ A **PRIEST** – offer spiritual sacrifices (1 Pet. 2:4,5; Rev. 1:5,6)
- ▶ A **BRIDE** – maintain purity (2 Co. 11:2; Rom. 7:4; Eph. 5:25-33)
- ▶ A **CITIZEN** of kingdom – submission / obedience (Dan. 7:14)



# What It Means To **BE A Christian**



## ▶ WE Follow **JESUS** —

- We **OBEY** Him (Luke 6:46-49; 1 Jn 2:3-6; Heb 5:8,9)
- We **BEAR** Fruit (Mat. 13:23; Jn 15:8; Gal. 5:22,23)
- We Develop Godly **CHARACTER** (Mat. 5:3-12; Col. 3:12-16; 1 John 3:3)
- We are Good **STEWARDS** (Mt. 25:14-30; 1 Cor. 4:1,2)
- We **SUFFER** with Him & for Him (2 Tim 3:12; Jno. 16:2,33;17:14. Ac. 14:22)
- Will be **WITH HIM** in **GLORY** (Jn 14:1-6; Rom 8:29; Phil. 3:7-11, 21; 1 Cor. 15:49; 2 Cor. 3:18; 1 Jn 3:2,3).

# What It Means To **BE** A Christian



## ▶ Becoming like JESUS —

- Through **TEACHING / LEARNING** — Mat. 28:18-20; 2 Tim 2:2; Eph. 4:11-15
- Through **KNOWLEDGE / UNDERSTANDING** — Mat. 13:10-23; 17:10-13; 2 Pet 3:15-17; Col. 1:9,10; 14
- Through **TRAINING / DOING**— Luke 9:1-6; 10:1-20; Jam 1:22
- With **PATIENCE** — Mat. 15:12-17; 17:17-21; Luke 9:46; 22:24; 2 Tim 4:2; Ja. 5:7,8

# WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A CHRISTIAN? WALKING IN HIS STEPS

SERMON SERIES: **GROWING IN CHRIST**



- ▶ It's **NOT** ALL about **ME** — **IT'S** ALL ABOUT **JESUS!**
- ▶ Have you **OBEYED** the gospel of **JESUS CHRIST?**
- ▶ Are you **LEARNING** ALL YOU CAN about **JESUS?**
- ▶ Are you **FOLLOWING** **JESUS** as **LORD?**
- ▶ Are you **BECOMING** **MORE LIKE JESUS?**

# WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A CHRISTIAN? WALKING IN HIS STEPS

SERMON SERIES: **GROWING IN CHRIST**



▶ DENY OURSELVES, ACCEPT DUTY &  
TEMPORAL CONSEQUENCES, &  
FOLLOW JESUS

▶ BE FAITHFUL - DON'T LOOK BACK



WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE  
**A CHRISTIAN?**  
WALKING IN HIS STEPS  
SERMON SERIES: GROWING IN CHRIST

You CAN Become A Christian Today  
**IF YOU WILL ACCEPT THE COST**  
*(Temporal cost / Eternal Reward)*

Romans 8:28-39; 1 Cor. 15:58; 1 Peter 5:8-11



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# WALKING IN HIS STEPS

SERMON SERIES: **GROWING IN CHRIST**

## *Where We Are Going*

- 1. What Becoming A Christian Is All about**
- 2. What We Have In Christ**
- 3. Increasing In The Knowledge of God**
- 4. Standing Against Evil Forces**
- 5. Giving All Diligence To Grow**
- 6. Bearing Fruit That Honors God**
- 7. Growing By Serving In The Body**
- 8. Living For Heaven - Keeping Our Focus**

