

John Newlin Ministries, Inc. *- realizing the power of a life in Christ-*

Who Is a Christian?

Some years ago I stopped using the word Christian and referred to those who had accepted Jesus as their Lord as “believers” in Jesus Christ. I did that because I had seen so many who call themselves Christians but who may learn someday that they are not in the group going with Jesus when he calls out his Church.

Then one day I reflected on the fact that the Bible itself uses the word (The disciples were first called Christians at Antioch – Acts 11:26.), so I am back now again to using it. But be warned - not all who say they are Christians are believers in Jesus and on their way to eternal life with him and the Father.

Think about this for a moment:

- Jesus said those who love him will obey his commands.
- Jesus also said people who obey his commands are his friends.
- So what does that make people who disobey his commands or pay no attention to them? They are clearly not his friends and they do not love him. With that type of relationship I doubt they are on their way to the Kingdom.
- I saw a poll recently that said that 50% of Christians do not believe there is a devil. But Jesus talked about the devil, about satan. He warned us about him. He called him a murderer from the beginning and the father of lies. But 50% of “Christians” don’t believe there is a devil. Now you see why I had trouble with the word Christian. How can a person call himself a Christian and not believe what Jesus Christ says?
- To carry this further, there are all sorts of churches, some in major denominations, that take stands opposite the Bible, which is the Word of God. Jesus also is called the Word. These churches are disbelieving the Bible. For example, some don’t recognize the importance of Israel. Still others ordain homosexuals, honoring a lifestyle that the Bible declares to be absolutely wrong.
- Today we have much hoopla about whether some group is Christian or a cult or whatever. How are you to decide? Pretty simple. Look at the Bible. And look at that other group. Christians do need to know the Bible. And they need to know Jesus.

Well, that’s enough to get you going, isn’t it? What is a Christian? Not long ago I recorded a CD on the subject: *Just How Does Anyone Ever Really Get into Heaven?* You can request a copy from the ministry. And we made two television programs on that. They are available for your viewing twenty-four hours a day on our ministry web site. Just go to the video section and click on *Getting Into Heaven*.

Here are some more key points:

- There is one God – in three forms: Father, Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit.
- With the fall of humanity in Genesis (Adam and Eve), all human beings lived in sin. They were born in sin. They lived in sin. God is a perfect God and he cannot tolerate sin. Yet his compassion and his plan for human beings led him not to desert his creation. His solution to this problem was to send his son Jesus to earth in human form. Jesus taught us a great deal while on the earth, but really **he came to go to the cross**. In going there he took care of everything that separated people from God. This is called the atonement. When he declared “It is finished” while hanging on the cross, he did not mean he was dying. He meant I have taken care of everything that separated people from God. He did it. Now it is all up to people. (Our 3 CDs, *What Did Jesus Do? – Parts One, Two, and Three*, cover 16 things that Jesus did. There are also videos on the web site on this subject.). He brought us peace with God (not peace in this world but peace with God), he overcame the world and in him we overcome the world, he earned forgiveness for us for our sins so that we might have eternal life with him and the Father, he became a curse on the cross for us so that we would be free from the curses of the law and rather have the blessings of Abraham, he took our unrighteousness so that we might be made the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus, he took our sicknesses and diseases and pain upon himself and by his stripes, his beatings, we have been healed and made whole, he became poor that we might be rich, and more. The problem is that most people do not know what Jesus did for them and they do not know who they are in him, so they never receive what he has accomplished for them.
- It is through this absolute acceptance of the gift of grace from God – this forgiveness for our sins because of Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross – that a person becomes a believer in Jesus and thus a Christian. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life – there is no way to God except by and through Jesus. No other way. All of this is summed up in the often quoted John 3:16.
- Jesus himself explained to Nicodemus that a person must be born again, or born anew – he must be born of water and the spirit in order to enter the Kingdom. God is spirit, and he must be worshipped in spirit.
- Jesus also said that a person who hears his word and believes him who sent Jesus has everlasting life.
- And Paul gave a simple explanation – If a person confesses with his mouth that Jesus is Lord and believes in his heart that God raised him from the dead he will be saved.

The key to all this is that a person truly, really, absolutely has to realize who Jesus is and accept him as their Lord. That belief is a heart thing, not an intellectual thing. That word Lord in a way means boss. It means you do what he says. You obey his commands.

Jesus points out the road is narrow and few are they who find it. Yes Jesus died for the entire world. But many in the world will not accept what he did nor receive what he wants to give them, and they will not find this narrow path to life with him and the Father. Not everyone is going to Heaven. Not everyone is going to be in the Kingdom. This is a hard fact, but it is a fact. God is God. He is love and he is to be loved. And to

Keep Your Eyes on Jesus!

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be feared, to be respected. He is all powerful. We have hope and life forever because of the actions of Jesus Christ.

One last comment - Being born into a Christian family does not make a person a Christian. Going to a church does not make a person a Christian. Believing in Jesus Christ, the first born son of God, does.

Many more episodes of *DARE TO BELIEVE!* added to ministry web site. Watch anytime 24/7!

Many more half hour episodes of *DARE TO BELIEVE!* have been added to the ministry web site. Just go to www.johnnewlinministries.org and punch on video in the menu column or on the home page. There you will see all the videos available to you any time of day or night. Among the new ones added are a series on fighting evil, two on healing in communion, two more on Jesus, and several others. This entire video section contains many teachings on Jesus and all he did, on healing and the return of Jesus and the Kingdom of God and many more wonderful subjects.

“HOW TO HEAL THE SICK” – A NEW CLASS OFFERED

In Wilmington NC we are currently conducting a class for those interested in how to heal the sick. It is for, as the name suggests, those interested not only in being healed and knowing all about divine healing but also in being prepared to step out and minister to others in this way. After all, Jesus did say that those who believe will lay hands on the sick and they will be healed. If you would like us to come to your area or church and conduct this program, please send us an email or letter or give us a call. It can be conducted over a weekend as well as a series of night meetings. An ideal approach would be to conduct this several days in a row or over a weekend and combine with a healing service. These are difficult times we are living in, and I do not expect them to get better. Believers need to be in health. We need to be examples for others. We need to show the way. And we need to be able to minister to others as Jesus intended we would. Don't let this opportunity pass by. We will come to where you are.

NUMEROUS MINISTRY PROGRAMS AND SEMINARS OFFERED:

- **DAY OF HEALING AND OTHER DIVINE HEALING PROGRAMS**
- **THE IMMINENT RETURN OF JESUS**
- **WHO JESUS IS AND WHAT HE DID**
- **GETTING INTO HEAVEN**
- **FIGHTING EVIL**
- **KNOWING AND BEING GUIDED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT**
- **LIVING A VICTORIOUS LIFE IN CHRIST**

All these are offered as weekend programs, one day programs, or as a series of meetings. Request our ministry brochure or read it at our web site (click in the menu column). Contact the ministry for details for our coming to your church or community.

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TO ALL WHO SUPPORT THIS MINISTRY IN A VERY DIFFICULT WORLD ENVIRONMENT, A BIG THANK YOU!

May God richly bless all of you who support this ministry with your donations, with your prayers, and with your volunteer efforts. It is by these gifts that this ministry operates and goes forward in all the areas in which we are involved. Just think of all the activities: producing and distributing newsletters, the very expensive producing of television programs and paying for broadcast time, having a ministry web site with all it offers, producing and distributing CDs, producing ministry materials such as brochures and various handouts, holding meetings and services, traveling. All of this costs a great deal. Other than contributions towards CDs by some when they request them, all these activities are carried out and given to others for no charge whatsoever. Some persons attending services thankfully do contribute through offerings. But in general, a person can partake in all of this for free.

The truth is ministry programs and activities do not go forward without senders, those people whom God guides to support and send the ministry into this secular world. Thank you again, dear partners. And for all others who may read this newsletter and realize you are benefiting from the ministry, please consider whether you might be able to contribute, whether a small or large amount. You can use the enclosed envelope for that purpose, as well as for sending in prayer requests or requesting CDs. Remember the promise of blessings that come to those who give to Jesus and the gospel, which is what a donor to this ministry is doing. Even think about Paul's words in Galatians 6:6.

These are difficult times in which we live. Always keep your eyes on Jesus. And may you always live in the blessings of God.

John

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