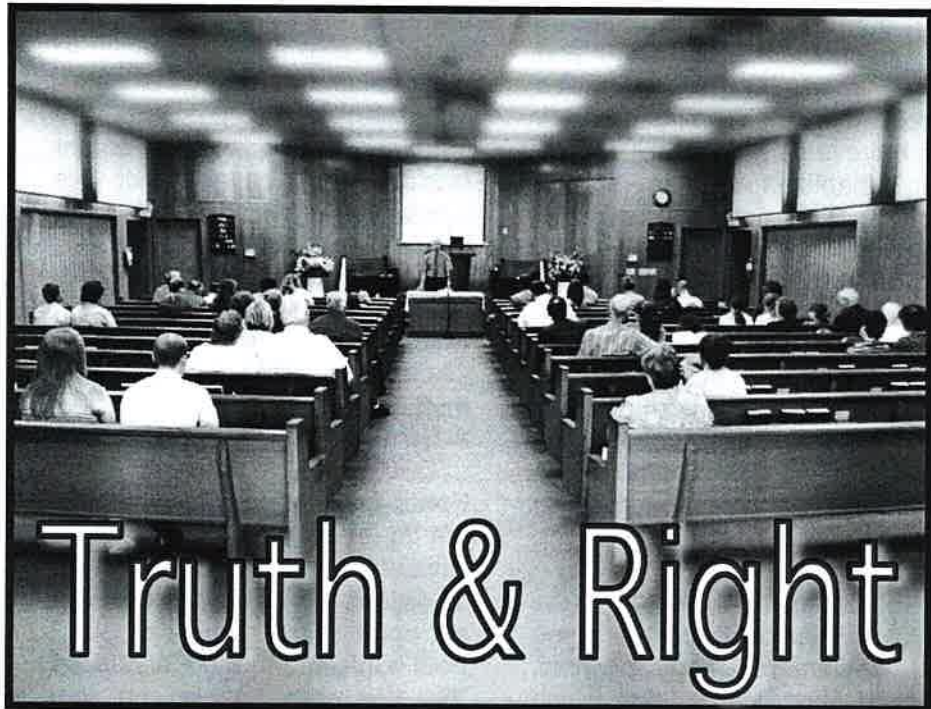


In search of...



Truth & Right

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A Christian Is...

The Bible uses several terms to refer to the Christian. This article begins a short series of articles that will call the reader's attention to "A Christian Is." So we take a look, a Christian is...

A Disciple.

A reading of Acts 11:26 reveals, "and the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch." The New Testament term disciple denotes "one who follows one's teaching" (Vines). Jesus said, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed" (Jn. 8:31). A Christian is a follower of Christ.

A Member Of The Body.

To the Christians at Corinth Paul wrote, "For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ" (1 Cor. 12:12). How does one become a member of the body? The Bible teaches that one is "baptized into Christ" (Gal. 3:27; 1 Cor. 12:13). A Christian is a member of the body of Christ.

A Believer.

Jesus declared, "Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I

am He, you will die in your sins" (Jn. 8:24). A Christian believes in Christ, God (Heb. 11:6) and acts upon God's will with obedience. A reading of Mark 16:16 reveals, "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned" (Mk. 16:16).

A Child of God.

A Christian is "a child of God" (1 Jn. 3:9-10). This occurs as folks are "born of God." Jesus said, "unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God" (John 3:5). One becomes a child of God by hearing, believing and obeying God.

A Sojourner.

Peter penned, "I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul" (1 Peter 2:11). In what sense is a Christian a sojourner? A Christian is a temporary resident on earth and "here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come" (Heb. 13:14). A reading of Philippians 3:20 reveals, "But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ." We sing "This world is not my home, I'm just a passing through" (by Albert Brumley).

A Servant.

To the Christians at Rome Paul wrote, "Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness" (Rom. 6:18). The Christian has only one Master as "No one can

serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon" (Mt. 6:24). A Servant respects the authority of his master. The Christian obeys the word of the Lord. Jesus said, "But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say?" (Lk. 6:46). A Christian is a faithful servant to the Lord!

A Saint.

Paul addressed the Ephesian letter "to the saints who are in Ephesus, and faithful in Christ Jesus" (Eph. 1:1). Christians are saints "as they are set apart to the service of God." Paul explained to the Corinthians "But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God" (1 Cor. 6:11). A person is set apart for the service of God when he or she hears, believes obeys the Gospel.

A Soldier.

Timothy, a Christian, was exhorted to "endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ" (2 Tim. 2:3). The Christian as a soldier does not "wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places" (Eph. 6:12). This battle is not physical, but spiritual. The Christian soldier takes a stand for the truth and combats false

teaching.

A Steward.

God has entrusted certain things to the Christian and "it is required in stewards that one be found faithful" (1 Cor. 4:2). What do we do with our time, resources, talents and relationships? How do we use our time, resources and talents? There will come a day when we have to give an account of our stewardship, as each of us will "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" (2 Cor. 5:10).

A Priest.

It's likely that many Christians don't view themselves as priest, but in the Gospel dispensation they are referred to as such. Peter penned, "you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ" (1 Pet. 2:5). A reading of 1 Peter 2:9 reveals, "But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light." The Christian does not offer sacrifices such as those offered by priest under the Mosaic dispensation, but offers spiritual worship and service to God (Rom. 12:1-2).

A Worker.

Paul commanded Timothy, "Be diligent to present yourself

approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Tim. 2:15). We often sing "to the work, to the work...let us hope and trust, let us watch, and pray, and labor till the Master comes" (Wm. H. Doane). The Christians work in the Lord's vineyard (Mt. 20:1-16) and there is much work to do!

Called of God.

In his Roman letter, Paul greeted the recipients with "among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ" (Rom. 1:6). Men today are being called through the word of God "for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek" (Rom. 1:16). This calling includes hearing the word of God, believing it and obedience. A reading of Acts 18:8 reveals "and many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed and were baptized."

A Worthy Name.

In the Old Testament Isaiah prophesied God's people would be called by a "new name" (Is. 62:2). That new name is revealed in the New Testament when "the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch" (Acts 11:26). The name Christian is a worthy name as it indicates that one is a follower or disciple of Christ.

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John 1:43-51

W U A V R O T Z E K R P Y Y H V S J G C
P H I L I P Y Q C R B E T H S A I D A F
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G N W G P O E N T C S V J M T L R I B W
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- Jesus decided to go to Galilee
- He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me."
- Philip was from the city of Bethsaida
- He told Nathanael that they had found the Christ
- Nathanael said, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?"
- When Jesus saw him, He said, "Behold, an Israelite indeed...
- ...in whom there is no deceit!"
- Nathanael asked, "How do you know me?"
- Jesus said that "when you were under the fig tree, I saw you."
- Nathanael then said, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God!"
- Jesus told him, "You will see greater things than these."
- He said he would see heaven opened with angels