



Authentic Christianity

Acts 26:24-29

If you ask, “what is Christianity?” people will give all kinds of _____. They will tell you what they _____ Christianity is or what they wished it were. Is the Christianity we see in America today what God intended when He sent _____ into the world? You might think the word “Christian” would occur frequently in the New Testament, but this name only occurs _____ times. The word “Christian” refers to an individual who “_____ to Christ.”

The _____ time the word “Christian” is used in the New Testament is in Acts 11:25-26. The word for “called” here is not the _____ word in Greek. This word refers to a divinely _____ name or instruction. The name “Christian” did not come from _____ as a term of reproach. It came from God in fulfillment of the _____ found in Isaiah 62:2. A disciple is a person who imitates his master, becomes _____ him in manner, in speech, in mind, and in behavior. Both the word “disciple” and the word “Christian” show the _____ relationship between the Lord Jesus and those who follow Him.

The _____ time the word “Christian” is used is also found in the book of Acts (26:27-29). Paul wished _____ was a Christian. People _____ to be Christians. Nobody is _____ a Christian. We must _____ for ourselves. We must be born _____ to be a Christian. And we do that when by faith we decide to follow Christ and to be _____ (Romans 6:16-18). The _____ teaches us about the transformation that takes place when a person becomes a Christian (Ephesians 4:17-24). There is a _____ change that takes place when a person decides to become a Christian. He leaves the _____ sinful way of life that’s darkened and futile; and he puts on a _____ way of life that’s patterned after Jesus Christ.

The _____ Scripture that mentions the name “Christian” is 1 Peter 4:15-16. Here the Bible says that one should not be ashamed of being a Christian but to _____ God in that name. The apostle Paul, like Peter, was willing to _____ whatever shame and punishment necessary in order to preach the gospel and to serve the Lord Jesus (Romans 1:14-16). A Christian doesn’t have to be ashamed when he wakes up without a hangover, or that he tells the _____, that he keeps his word, that he practices what is _____, and that he loves his neighbor. The way of Christians is God’s way, God’s plan to _____ all of mankind. That’s why Christians are the _____ of the earth and the _____ of the world (Matthew 5:13-16).

Being a Christian means that I _____ belong to my Lord Jesus Christ. I give Him _____ place in my life. Many people think that being a Christian is a great thing until it interferes with what they _____ to do. How could we imagine _____ ungodly lives, when we consider that He has done for us? (1 Peter 1:18-19; Colossians 1:13-14; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20). Paul described himself as a bond-servant of Jesus Christ (Philippians 1:1). To be a bond-servant, a _____, means that I’m a slave to my Lord. The Lord _____ me and He has a right to make important decisions that affect my life, decisions that I can’t _____ or overrule. Christianity is not a democracy; it’s a _____ and Jesus Christ is the _____.

So much of what people think of as “Christianity” is _____ from what Jesus meant for it to be into what they want. People have filled it full of human creeds and human traditions so that it hardly resembles His divinely revealed _____ in the New Testament. For many people Christianity is like a smorgasbord from which they can _____ and choose what they like.

People often _____ Christianity unfairly, not understanding the Christianity of the New Testament. There is much history and many practices that have been done in the name of Christianity that are not in harmony with Scripture. If you want to know what _____ Christianity is, look in the Scriptures. The New Testament gives God’s _____ about Christianity. New Testament Christianity is God’s _____ to bless this world with love, with purity, with grace, with hope, and with heaven (Titus 2:11-14).