

Building A Life For God

Acts 11:25-26

²⁵Then ^{G1161} departed ^{G1831} Barnabas ^{G921} to Tarsus ^{G5019}, for to seek ^{G327} Saul ^{G4569}:

²⁶And when he had found ^{G2147} him, he brought ^{G71} him unto Antioch ^{G490}.
And it came ^{G1096} to pass, that a whole ^{G3650} year ^{G1763} they assembled ^{G4863}
themselves with the church ^{G1577}, and taught ^{G1321} much ^{G2425} people ^{G3793}. And
the disciples ^{G3101} were called ^{G5537} **Christians ^{G5546}** first ^{G4412} in Antioch ^{G490}.

What does the name “Christian” mean to you?

Sometimes the name is commonly used to designate a people who generally try to follow New Testament principles. Someone might say, for instance, “He is from a Christian nation”.

Sometimes the name is used to refer to anyone who belongs to the family of God, that is, anyone who has gone to God in prayer, repented of their sins and has asked that the sacrifice Jesus Christ offered on the cross pay the sin debt that they owe. They are referred to as a “Christian” as opposed to being a Jew, a Hindu or a Moslem.

That is not what the word “Christian” meant, even though it is commonly misused today to refer to the two groups mentioned above. If you look up the word in “Strong’s Analytical Concordance” you will find the following:

G5546

Χριστιανός

Christianos

khri-s-tee-an-os'

From **G5547**; a *Christian*, that is, follower of Christ:—Christian.

G5547

Χριστός

Christos

khri-s-tos'

From G5548; *anointed*, that is, the *Messiah*, an epithet of Jesus:—Christ.

If people are going to call themselves a “Christian”, they must be a follower of Christ, that is, they must be Christ-like. They must emulate the things that Jesus Christ did while He was on this earth. The drawing you will find on the last page depicts the things that Jesus Christ expects us to do if we are going to follow His example. They are the things that He did in order to please His Father and they are the things He expects us to do if we are going to follow Him and to please Him. They are the things He expects us to do if we want to be called a follower of Christ - a “Christian”.

You may wonder why the building on the last page is a pyramid. A pyramid is the only building that the capstone or corner stone fits on all three sides. The workers reject the capstone or ignore the capstone until the rest of the stones are in place and the capstone becomes the crowning high point of the building for everyone to see. The capstone then holds the rest of the stones in place and gives stability to the building.

¹Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, ²As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: ³If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious. ⁴To whom coming, as unto **a living stone**, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, ⁵**Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house**, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. ⁶Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. ⁷Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, **the stone which the builders disallowed**, the **same is made the head of the corner**, ⁸And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed. ⁹But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his

marvellous light: ¹⁰Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.” 1st Peter 2:

Jehovah Elohim

The name Jehovah Elohim is taken from two Hebrew words that refer to two of the attributes of our God. The Hebrew word that is translated “Jehovah” means “The Self Existent, Eternal One”. The Hebrew word “Elohim” means “The Three Mighty Ones”. Therefore, any life that is pleasing to Christ must be built upon the bedrock of JEHOVAH ELOHIM, THE SELF EXISTENT, ETERNAL, THREE MIGHTY ONES. *“²¹Not 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. ²²Many 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? ²³And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. ²⁴Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: ²⁵And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. ²⁶And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: ²⁷And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.” Matthew 7:21*

Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ has to be the foundation of any life that is build for God. *“¹⁰According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. ¹¹For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹²Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; ¹³Every man’s work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man’s work of what*

sort it is. ¹⁴If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. ¹⁵If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire." 1st Corinthians 3:10-15

Salvation

There must be a time in our life when we go to God in prayer, repent of our sins and ask that the sacrifice Jesus Christ offered on the cross pay the sin debt that we owe. (Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23)

Good works will not pay that sin debt since all our good works, in God's eyes, look like filthy rags. ⁶"But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away." Isaiah 64:6

Wal-Mart will not take a box of dirty rags in payment of a debt nor will God take a life that looks like dirty rags as a payment for our sin debt.

Being religious will not pay that sin debt since being religious is all on the outside and nothing has been changed on the inside. ⁸"This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. ⁹But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." Matthew 15:8

If we are to be saved from having to pay for our sin debt through eternity in Gehenna (the Lake of Fire), it can only be through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

¹²"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. Acts 4:12

²⁷My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: ²⁸And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. ²⁹My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand." John 10:27-29

Please note the drawing on the last page. Every person who has made it to this level is now a member of the Family of God. At the moment of their salvation, God

adopted them into His family. They are one of His children and He is their Heavenly Father. They will spend eternity with God on the New Earth that He is going to create.

*“¹And I saw a new heaven and **a new earth**: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.” Revelation 21:1*

“³And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. ⁴And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. ⁵And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. ⁶And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. ⁷He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.”
Revelation 21:3-7 We can overcome, of course, through the blood of the Lamb.

“²⁴And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it. ²⁵And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there. ²⁶And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it”. Revelation 21:24-25

It is an unfortunate thing that most saved people in the world today do not progress to the next level. They finish their life on this earth without ever following Christ’s example in seeking scriptural baptism. Are they saved? **YES!** Are they a member of the Family of God? **YES!** Are they Christ - like, that is, have they emulated the things that Jesus Christ did while He was on this earth? **NO!** Therefore, are they a Christian? **NO!**

Are you a Christian or are you just a member of the Family of God? If you want to follow the example of Christ, you must have scriptural baptism.

*¹³Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be **baptized** of him. ¹⁴But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be **baptized** of thee, and comest thou to me?*

¹⁵And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Matthew 3:13-15

In the early days of God's Churches the disciples of Christ taught that if you wanted to serve Christ after salvation, you served Him through His authorized agency, His local New Testament Churches.

*“⁴¹Then they that gladly received his word were **baptized**: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. ⁴²And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. ⁴³And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. ⁴⁴And all that believed were together, and had all things common; ⁴⁵And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. ⁴⁶And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, ⁴⁷Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.” Acts 2:41-47*

*“⁴Therefore we are buried with him by **baptism** into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. ⁵For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: ⁶Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. Romans 6:4-6*

In order for baptism to be scriptural, you must have three things. If any of the three are missing, the baptism is not scriptural.

Once a person has scriptural baptism, they become a member of the Church that baptized them. Now they are ready to move up to the next level in their service to Christ. God expects them to be regular in their attendance of worship services as well as the Bible study that is conducted by their Church. God's method of providing for the financial support of His Churches is very simple. God blesses the individual members and He expects them to contribute one tenth of their income for the support of their Church. Once a person begins the faithful practice of these three things, they had better get ready for the battle. Satan and the evil ones are going to try to discourage them. They will try to attract them so they will become more involved in the world. The more they

are involved in the world, the less involvement they will have in helping their Church fulfill the three point commission Christ gave His local Churches in Mathew 28:18-20.

As they move up to the next level, they should incorporate daily personal devotionals. These should include home Bible study, meditation and prayer. **THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR DAILY DEVOTIONALS.**

God calls us to be separate from the world and from false faiths that teach contrary plans of salvation. We are to be good separators, not good mixers. Being active in one of God's Churches and learning the word of God at our Church as well as at home helps us move up to the next level of separation.

By this time, we are gaining the spiritual strength to be committed and to be dedicated to the service of God through one of His Churches. We will find that we are achieving unusual success in witnessing for Christ. A person at this level should be leading at least nine out of every ten lost people to a saving knowledge of Christ when they witness to them.

The crowning point on any life that is pleasing to God is Jesus Christ. We should pattern our life after His life, we should seek to be like Him and we should dedicate our bodies for the honor and glory of God.

*¹I 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.
²And 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*