

“I AM A CHRISTIAN”

“26 And it came to pass, that even for a whole year they were gathered together with the church, and taught much people; and that the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch,” Acts 11:26. “28 And Agrippa said unto Paul, With but little persuasion thou wouldest fain make me a Christian,” Acts 26:28. “16 But if a man suffer as a Christian, let him no be ashamed; but let him glorify God in this name,” I Pet. 4:16. In these three passages we find the word **CHRISTIAN** used in the New Testament. Acts 11:26 is the first, time the people of the Lord, were called “**CHRISTIAN.**”

It has often been said, by those who are not Christians, the world gave the people of God the name **CHRISTIAN!** This is not so! It seems a prophet prophesied, many years before, that the people of God would be called by a “**new name.**” **This name was given to the people of the Lord by God** and not by man. “2 And the nations shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory; and thou shalt be called by a new name which the mouth of Jehovah shall name,” Isa. 62:2. Notice in this last passage the expression: “**which the mouth of Jehovah shall name,**” this naming comes from God and not from man.

There **was** a group of people who **were** called “**CHRISTIANS.**” Agrippa recognized this and noted he was not a part of that group: “*With but little persuasion thou wouldest fain make me a Christian,*” Acts 26:28. These are the people who have obeyed the Gospel, Rom. 1:16. These are they who have been born again, Jno. 3:5. These are they, “*who delivered us out of the power of darkness, and translated us into the kingdom of the Son of his love,*” Col. 1:13. These are they who are referred to as “**a people for God’s own possession,**” I Pet. 2:9. There was a people in New Testament times, designated as “**Christians,**” – because of what they did in life. I am a Christian because of what I have done in life – a seed produces after its kind! I obeyed the Gospel and live a life of obedience to God and am thus a “**CHRISTIAN.**”

I Pet. 4:16, “*But if a man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God in this name.*” Peter introduces the fact of being persecuted for the cause of the Lord. Paul emphasis this just a little more strongly, “*12 Yea, and all that would live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution,*” I Tim. 3:12. I am not an atheist; thus, will not be liked by the atheist. I am not a member of some denomination; so, they would not like such preaching; but, the truth is to be taught and people are to grow thereby. **I AM A CHRISTIAN** and thus, am separate and apart from all the religions of the world. Do not associate me with the doctrines and precepts of men, Matt. 15:8-9.

To be a “**CHRISTIAN**” is to be, “**one who is owned and possessed of by the Lord.**” There can be **unfaithful** Christians and there can be **faithful** Christians. When a Christian becomes sinful, he is unfaithful. When he confesses his sins and asks the brethren to pray for him, he now is in a state of being **faithful**, I Jno. 1:9; Jas. 5:16. The man who is obedient to the commands of the Lord is the faithful Christian and the person who is not obeying the commands of the Lord is disobedient! This last person is an unfaithful Christian. **I AM A CHRISTIAN.** “*13 These things have I written unto you, that ye may know that ye have eternal life, even unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God,*” I Jno. 5:13.

We can truly **know** whether we are a **faithful** Christian; or, whether we are **unfaithful**, by our keeping the commandments of the Lord. I can look at the teachings of the New Testament and know if **am** or if **I am not keeping** the commandments of the Lord. **I AM A CHRISTIAN!** Caa

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