

Being A Christian Is Far More Than Accepting Jesus Christ As Our Saviour

It is true that we enter the Christian life by an act of repentance of our past sins and an acceptance of Jesus Christ as our Saviour, but that is **not** the whole truth.

There is much more to being a Christian.

To accept Jesus Christ it is necessary that we reject whatever is contrary to Him.

This fact is all too often overlooked by eager evangelists bent on getting as many “converts” as possible.

Too often such ministers act like salesmen who talk up the good points of a product but conceal its disadvantages.

The badly informed evangelist stresses the positive side of Christianity at the expense of what humanly is considered negative.

Do **not** be shocked by this suggestion that there are within a Christian life events that humanly seem to be painful disadvantages.

Look at some of those who submitted their lives to the Creator God in the past history of humanity.

Abel was murdered. [**Genesis 4:1-8**]

Joseph was sold into slavery. [**Genesis 37:1-28**]

Daniel was thrown into a den of lions. [**Daniel 6:1-16**]

Stephen was stoned to death. [**Acts 7:54-60**]

A noble army of martyrs put to death by various painful methods down the long centuries of Christianity even today. [Early examples **Hebrews 11:35-40**]

Where the hostility towards a person seeking to live a Christian life may not lead to such violence, many other trials make life tough for a Christian.

The teaching of Jesus Christ included many warnings that to become a disciple of His would **not** be easy or pain free.

Matthew 16:24-27 [NIV] *“Then Jesus said to his disciples, **“If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it. What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father’s glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what he has done.”**”*

To become a disciple of Jesus Christ, that is a Christian, involves giving up our will and accepting a life that would involve pain in many forms.

Also our reward at the end of our physical life would be judged by how we accepted what Jesus Christ had just told us in this passage of scripture.

2 Corinthians 4:17-18 [NIV] *“For our **light and momentary troubles** are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but **on what is unseen**. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.”*

Paul considered these troubles but a “*light affliction*” compared with the reward that can be ours if we accept this Christian life with whatever trials it may bring.

2 Corinthians 11:23-28 [NIV] *“Are they servants of Christ? (I am out of my mind to talk like this.) I am more. I have **worked much harder**, been **in prison** more frequently, been **flogged** more severely, and been **exposed to death** again and again. Five times I received from the Jews the **forty lashes minus one**. Three times I was **beaten with rods**, once I was **stoned**, three times I was **shipwrecked**, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, I have been constantly on the move. I have been **in danger** from rivers, **in danger** from bandits, **in danger** from my own countrymen, **in danger** from Gentiles; **in danger** in the city, **in danger** in the country, **in danger** at sea; and **in danger** from false brothers. I have laboured and toiled and have often **gone without sleep**; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been **cold and naked**. Besides everything else, I **face daily the pressure** of my concern for all the churches.”*

Here is recorded some of the trials that the apostle Paul endured as he lived and preached a Christian life in a hostile world.

Every Christian who has lived for Jesus Christ in a Christless world has suffered some losses and endured some pains that they could have avoided if they had simply “*laid down their cross*.”

Every experienced missionary knows that the book or portion of scripture that is given away free will be less valued by the receiver than if a small price has been paid for it.

The higher the price, the more precious the possession.

Why then is it free to download articles from this website?

In reality it is **not** free.

We are asking a very high price.

What is this high price?

James 2:14-24 [NIV] *“What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, “Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, **faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead**. But someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds.” Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do. You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that, and shudder. You foolish man, **do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless?** Was not our ancestor Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. And the scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,” and he was called God’s friend. **You see that a person is justified by what he does and not by faith alone.**”*

The high price we ask is not to just believe the truth we offer you through the scriptures, but to apply it to your personal lives, however painful it may be.

Matthew 10:34-39 [NIV] *“Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to turn “‘a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law, a man’s enemies will be the members of his own household.’ “Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and **anyone who does***

not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.”

Accepting Jesus Christ to direct your life can cause hostility in your own family, if you do **not** handle the situation wisely.

I have personal experience of this, because in my great excitement of understanding the truth, I tried to “convert” my family by using scriptures they did **not** understand, instead of allowing my changed lifestyle being the silent witness to my new belief.

It has taken many years to bring near normality to my family life, and still resentment rises up when there are disagreements in the direction our lives should take.

The masses of professed Christians simply do **not** have the moral and spiritual muscle to enable them to take a path in their lives that is so downright and final as what was taught by Jesus Christ.

The contemporary climate in the majority of Christian fellowships does **not** favour a faith as tough and fibrous as that lived and taught by Jesus Christ and the apostles, and lived by the early Christians.

The delicate “hothouse” Christians being produced in our religious communities today are hardly to be compared with the committed, expendable believers who once gave their witness among their society.

The main fault lies with leaders in the Christian church today.

The preaching is too timid **not** telling the people in their fellowship what being a Christian really entails in their day-to-day life.

Church leaders are today asking people to give their allegiance to a god that will cost them nothing.

Our churches are partly filled but with only a soft breed of Christians who must be fed on a diet of harmless fun to keep them interested.

Today those that attend Christian meetings in churches or halls are not being taught –

To love righteousness we have to hate sin.

Revelation 12:9-11 [NIV] *“The great dragon was hurled down, that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him. Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: “Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. **For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.”**”*

The aim of this website is to bring to the vast majority of people knowledge of the God they do not know and the love He has for them personally.

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Just email us with your name and address and the quantity you would like.

We have to overcome the evil influence of Satan in our own lives but also seek to help others to do the same, even in the face of pain, suffering and even physical death.

To accept Jesus Christ it is necessary to reject self.

Romans 6:1-7 [NIV] *“What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning, so that grace may increase? By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Or don’t you know that **all of us who were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death?** We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, **we too may live a new life.** If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. For we know that **our old self was crucified with him** so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin, because anyone who has died has been freed from sin.”*

We have to die a death on a mental and spiritual cross.

Totally giving up our will to the will of Jesus Christ and the Father.

Matthew 6:9-10 [NIV] *“This, then, is how you should pray: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, **your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**”*

When we pray this very familiar prayer, do we mean what we say, by acting on what we have prayed?

To be a friend of this world’s society makes us an enemy of God.

James 4:4-9 [NIV] *“You adulterous people, don’t you know that **friendship with the world is hatred towards God?** Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. Or do you think Scripture says without reason that the spirit he caused to live in us envies intensely? But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: “**God opposes the proud** but gives grace to the humble.” Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom.”*

To have a friendship with this world’s society is in God’s eyes to commit spiritual adultery.

To follow this society’s way of life will cause the Holy Spirit to leave us.

1 John 2:15-17 [NIV] *“Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world, the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the **boasting** of what he has and does, comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives for ever.”*

The Greek word used by the apostle John is “*agapé*” meaning affection and benevolence.

This is also the same word John uses for our relationship with our Creator God.

We must never give such affection to this world for it should **only** be for our Creator.

Such an action as to follow this world’s example of how to live will be dominated by pride.

This will cause God to oppose all we do to humble us and bring us back to the way He wants us to live.

As much as we submit our lives to Jesus Christ as our Saviour we have to resist Satan and his society.

Matthew 12:30 [NIV] *“He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me scatters.”*

There is **no middle ground** as far as our Creator God is concerned.

We cannot have one foot in this world’s society and seek to have the other in God’s presence.

To follow God’s way of life we have to flee from evil.

1 Corinthians 6:18-20 [NIV] *“Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honour God with your body.”*

If the Holy Spirit is to continue to His work of changing our lives we have to flee from all that is evil in this world.

Remember when you flee from something it is always fatal to look back.

This scripture refers to both physical and spiritual fornication [King James Translation], this includes every act of thought that is **not** motivated by godly love.

1 John 3:1-3 [NIV] *“How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. **Dear friends, now we are children of God,** and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. **Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure.**”*

Not only are we to flee evil we are also to seek to live pure lives.

Unless we as Christians fully understand the commitment we make when we accept Jesus Christ as our Saviour, we are only weak adherents of a faith that we do not really understand.