

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A CHRISTIAN JUDE 1-2

If someone came up to you and asked you, "What does it mean to be a Christian", what type of response would you give him or her? In this one little book of Jude, he shares a wealth of information regarding the Christian life. Jude lived in a time in which, the grace of God had been turned into a license to commit all sorts of ungodly activities, and throughout this letter, God, through Jude issues a wake up call to saints all over the world. Why? Because the Bible declares, that if Satan can, he will deceive even the elect or the saints of God.

From time to time as I turn the TV on and glance at certain religious broadcasts, I am astonished at what is said by those men who would call themselves preachers, and pastors. We will never get away from fact that there will be men whose desire is to take the grace of God and manipulate it for personal gain, and use it as an endorsement for sin. Let me share with you some of the things that I have observed.

1. I see programs that talk about wealth and prosperity but nothing about obedience to God and living a holy life.
2. I see and hear individuals preaching, yet in their preaching there is not read one verse of Scripture from the Word of God.
3. I see and hear individuals who refuse to talk about an eternity of doom and damnation apart from Christ.
4. I see many who are trying to sell their product, as though their product will bring a happy life, without referring people to Jesus. While there are many who are attempting to reach millions with the gospel, there are yet others who are attempting to reach people with a counterfeit gospel, a counterfeit truth, a counterfeit hope.

Many individuals have left the idea that to be a Christian is to live a healthy life with a pocket full of money, without any problems or difficulties. That is simply not the truth. The reason that we are going to have trouble in this life is because, obedience to God always makes Satan angry, and agitated. That is why many saints have problems. Not because of rebellion, but because of satanic persecution. What does it really mean to be a Christian, a follower after Christ.

1. **BEING A CHRISTIAN MAY WELL MEAN SERVING IN A "SECOND PLACE" CATEGORY.**

Jude was not as well known as James, but he was totally content with being called the brother of James. He didn't have to have top billing. Why? Because his

obedience was unto the Lord. He didn't have the popularity of Peter, or John, yet nonetheless he would not discontinue his faithfulness. Because he knew that someday he would stand before the Wonderful Christ and be rewarded according to his works.

Serving in a "second place" position on earth, doesn't infer that the person will have second place rewards. As a matter of fact, it is probably much more difficult to serve in a "second place" position than it is a "first place".

The person who serves in a second place position doesn't get appreciated as they ought, yet when the Lord judges in the Judgment Day, he will take care of all of that. Think about what it takes for a person who occupies a "second place" position. It takes a person of deep devotion, loyalty, faithfulness, integrity, and a spirit of forgiveness because little may be said to them as a sign of appreciation.

Now in the judgment that deep devotion, loyalty, faithfulness, integrity, and forgiveness will be richly rewarded. Therefore, if you occupy a "second place" position, don't think for minute that you are going to receive second place rewards.

Matthew 10:42 And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.

Matthew 25:15 And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey.

The fact is God may allow us to serve in a second place position in order to try our faith. Why? Because serving in a second place position exposes our faithfulness, and integrity as I mentioned. God is fully aware that many will not serve unless that get to serve in the "first place" position. But a true Christian is willing to serve in a "second place" position for the glory of God.

2. BEING A TRUE CHRISTIANS MEANS THAT WE ARE SERVANTS OF JESUS

In the life of Jude, he described himself as "a servant of the Lord Jesus Christ." By the way if you will notice in Paul's writings, he uses that same title over and over again. Because what we call ourselves is the way we view ourselves. Jude in essence said, "I live for the express purpose of whatever Jesus has in store for me." Jude refused to live his life the way he wanted to live it. He was at the command of the Lord Jesus Christ and so was Paul. A true Christian today lives exactly that same way. If we are really Christians, then we give our lives to Jesus to use them as He sees fit. Whatever He says to do then we do it.

Jude never raised any questions when it came to serving Christ. No doubt there were things that he was unsure of, but he was at the disposal of Christ. A church that is truly a church following Christ, exists for the purpose of whatever Jesus says.

3. BEING A TRUE CHRISTIAN MEANS THAT WE AT THE DISPOSAL OF CHRIST

The word that Jude used as servant meant "slave". What did Jude mean? He meant that he lived for one purpose- to be at the disposal of Christ any time, day or night. When we are really at the disposal of Christ, His Word takes precedence, His will takes priority, and we subject our lives to Him and Him alone. Jesus even said that it was his will to do the will of the Father.

John 8:29 And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him.

Whatever Christ wanted to do with and through Jude was perfectly alright with the will of Jude. The fact is we can not be true Christians if we are not at the disposal of Christ. To be a saint of Christ, or a true Christian is to see one's own self knitted with the person of Christ and the person of Christ knows of no such thing as "partial faithfulness".

The point in which our lives become a heaven on earth is when we willingly become "servants- at the disposal of Christ." God will grow any church that is made up of "servants"- at His disposal.

4. BEING A TRUE CHRISTIAN INVOLVES RESPONDING TO HIS CALL OF SALVATION

There is no route to being a Christian apart from the conviction of the Holy Spirit in the life of a person. It is when we respond to the call of God in our soul and confess "Jesus Christ" as Lord that we begin the Christian journey. There is no such thing in the sight of God as "salvation by works". Salvation is all of grace. To conclude that we can be saved by our works, is the same as saying "The death of Christ was senseless and useless".

For a person to attempt to be saved by working, is to be deceived by Satan. There will be no entrance of any person into paradise but what has confessed in his heart that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.