

## Study 0094

### THE CHRISTIAN IN THE MARKETPLACE (4)

In the last study, we looked at the historical antecedent of Christianity; that is, the disciples of Jesus, while He (the Lord Jesus) was here on earth. We saw how the first set of disciples of the Lord were called, how they saw their sinfulness in the light of His grace, how they left all and followed Him immediately, and how they were eventually made the first partakers of the grace of eternal salvation.

Our emphasis is on the Christian as a disciple of Jesus, rather than just any disciple, or a disciple of anyone else for that matter. We saw how Peter, Andrew, James and John, the first disciples of Jesus, were called in **Luke 5:1-11**, even though, they had first encountered the Lord before then in **John 1:29-42**. We also noted that when they were called by the Lord, they “*forsook all, and followed Him*” (**Luke 5:11; Mark 1:18, 20; Luke 5:27-28**). We further noted that although the early disciples of Jesus (the 120 who were gathered in the Upper Room in Jerusalem) were in fact not really born again, as we now know it, until after the death and resurrection of Lord (**John 20:19-22**), they had nonetheless responded in a manner that set forth the principle that govern who a Christian truly is, as follows:

1. A Christian is someone who recognizes his sinfulness and therefore, his need for salvation through Jesus Christ (**Matthew 5:3 NLT**).
2. Having been thus saved, a Christian does the following:
  - (a) He follows the Lord’s teachings and injunctions continually, not merely following Him from place to place or from church to church (**Luke 14:25-27**);
  - (b) He forsakes all (including his own life); being prepared to go anywhere the Lord would want him to go (**Romans 14:7-8**); and,
  - (c) He first sits down and counts the cost of being a Christian, and hence, is willing to bear his cross daily, suffer whatever deprivations are necessary, and, make the sacrifices required of him by the Lord (**1 Corinthians 15:31; 2 Corinthians 11:23-28; Philippians 3:7-8; 4:11-12**).

As we concluded the last study, two significant questions, which challenge our own claims to being Christians, were raised: (a) Have you counted the cost of being a Christian yet? (b) What is it costing you now to be a Christian?

### Who Truly is a Christian? (2)

In spite of all that has been said above, it is important to note that a person is not just a Christian because he follows the Lord’s teachings; neither is he one, because he has forsaken all including his own life; nor is he a Christian just because he has counted the cost, and is prepared to pay whatever price. Some people having read or studied the historical antecedent of Christianity, think, albeit erroneously, that a Christian is someone who just starts to follow Jesus, regardless of his sinfulness, sometimes using the hymn, “Just as I am, without one plea”, as justification for their postulation! Some others think, also erroneously, that because they are prepared to make personal sacrifices for the Lord, they are Christians (**1 Corinthians 13:1-3**). In this study, we shall attempt to put all these misconceptions to rest, by seeking markers or identifiers by which we can tell if we truly are Christians, as established by the word of God (**Romans 2:28-29**)!

**ASSIGNMENT**

1. What is the one most critical identifier of a person who is a Christian? (**Romans 8:1-9; John 7:37-39; 14:16-17**)

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2. In addition to the above, what are the other identifiers or markers of who a Christian truly is?

(a) **John 1:12-13; 3:3-8; 1 Peter 1:23**

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(b) **Genesis 12:1; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Ephesians 4:17-24; 1 Peter 2:9; Romans 12:2**

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(c) **1 Peter 1:18-19; Ephesians 1:7**

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(d) **1 John 3:4-10; Romans 6:1-7**

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(e) **Romans 6:15-22; 2 Corinthians 5:15; Galatians 2:19-20**

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(f) **Luke 14:25-27; John 3:1-9; 7:32, 45-51; 19:38-42**

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(g) **1 Peter 4:12-19; Romans 8:16-18**

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(h) **Revelation 2:1-5; John 21:15-19; 1 John 2:15-16; James 4:4**

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(i) **Matthew 7:21-23; 21:28-31; 1 Peter 4:1-2**

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(j) **Galatians 5:16-17, 25; Romans 8:14**

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(k) **Galatians 5:19-24; 2 Peter 1:3-11**

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(l) **Luke 6:46; John 8:31; James 1:22-25**

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**CONCLUSION**

Without \_\_\_\_\_ you cannot be called a Christian in the true sense of the word. Indeed, without \_\_\_\_\_ all the other markers of who a Christian truly is will either be impossible to attain, or, if it is ever observed, it will be fake, being done in human strength. Some have tried to live like a Christian, but have discovered that it is a very hard thing to do; so they try to imitate being one with very many frustrations along the way. This ought not to be so, for the necessary means to live the Christian life in this dark world is abundantly available to all them who \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_! We conclude therefore, that everything you are, and can be, as a Christian, is because of \_\_\_\_\_ who dwells \_\_\_\_\_!