
Are You A Christian?

Radio Message by Dwight Porter

ARE you one according to the New Testament or by your personal evaluation? A Christian because of your pastor's and church's reception, or because of having done everything your church expects of you, such as coming to the front of the church, being baptized, and joining as a member? Have you intellectually agreed with the truth of salvation? Do your friends classify you as a Christian? Do your parents? Are you a Christian because of your personal claim to be so? Have you made some kind of "decision"?

Where is that term found in the Bible? Did God tell you to believe some man or woman, make a public profession of your faith at the front of a church, auditorium, or stadium? There is absolutely no human action for you to take that will mean your eternal salvation. We have done everything we can to make it easy for a hell-bound sinner to claim to possess the righteousness of a holy God. Today we tell people to just believe in Jesus. We use manmade terms instead of biblical ones. We tell people they are saved, when that is the responsibility of the Holy Spirit. We listen to a person's testimony instead of rejoicing in their life-style transformation before our eyes. When regeneration (born-again) takes place within your heart and life, it will be evident by your walk, talk, appearance, and where you go. "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (II Cor. 5:17). **HAS THIS HAPPENED TO YOU?**

Come to Christ

You cannot do it. God doesn't expect you to do so. Your inability lies in no physical or mental defect. The explanation of not being able to come is due to the complete darkness of your understanding. "There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God" (Rom. 3:11). "For ye were once darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord; walk as children of light" (Eph. 5:8). "Because the carnal mind is enmity against God, for it is not subject to the law of God, neither, indeed, can be" (Rom. 8:7). The total perversity of your will is another explanation for your inability. Christ declares you will not come to Him. "And ye **WILL NOT COME** ~o me, that ye might have life" (John 5:40). Never will natural man submit to the humbling terms of the gospel of Christ. You face the absolute necessity of the Holy Spirit's working within you as a depraved, spiritually helpless creature if you are going to come to Christ. Only the Spirit can and will reveal your high-handed and lifelong rebellion against a holy God, and bring to your realization the dire need of Christ, Who will draw you to Himself. Your willingness and determination to come to Christ, without Divine drawing, will never happen.

Now is the time to hear John 6:44: "No man **CAN COME TO ME**, except the Father who hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day." Please note, Christ plainly declares no man has the ability to come. He must be drawn to Christ by the Father. Christ draws us to Himself. "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me" (John 12:32).

You are in need of Divine assistance. You have been told all your life you can come on your own. What does the Bible say? Coming to Christ implies a turning of our back upon the world, and a solemn turn unto Christ as your only hope. It is the abandoning of all idols and dependencies, with your heart going out to Him in loving submission, obedience, and trustful confidence. It is your mind, heart, and will that is supernaturally drawn to Him for the purpose of trust, love, and service.

Divine Revelation

Do we think for one moment that the Holy Spirit is going to reveal the Holy, altogether Lovely One (Christ) to an unrepentant sinner going his own way? We are not a sinner by personal confession. We are the sinner God declares us to be in the Bible. And a sorry lot we are! Have you read lately the first three chapters of Romans? Only the Holy Spirit can turn us from our own way, which is God's description of sin, as revealed by Isaiah the prophet in chapter 53, verse six: "All we like sheep have gone astray; **WE HAVE TURNED EVERY ONE TO HIS OWN WAY**, and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all."

God commands repentance of us. "When Jesus heard it, he saith unto them, They that are well have no need of the physician, but they that are sick; I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance" (Mark 2:17). Repentance is the gift of God through the gospel, whereby the sinner, sensing his condemning guilt, sorrowfully turns to God, confessing that Christ died for him and believes for forgiveness and cleansing. Have you been convicted by the Holy Spirit of your sinful condition before a holy God? Have you cried out to Him for mercy and forgiveness? Until God reveals your horrible condition as a sinner, there will be no Christ available to be your Savior and Ruler. There is no other Jesus. He is the **LORD JESUS CHRIST**.

Too long we have been presented a Christ who must fit into our life-style. We have desired a Christ of compromise with sin, stripped of authority, reduced to a person who meets our intellectual standards. There is no such person coming from heaven to meet our convenient philosophical concepts.

One or Two

Just in case there is one who desires to be clean in the sight of a holy God, here is my admonition for your action. If and when you are convicted of your sin by the Holy Spirit as a result of reading or hearing biblical *Truth find a place of prayer*. On your knees, have a personal conversation with God and Christ. Name your sins and assure Him of your deep sorrow of heart. Call on the Lord.

"For whosoever shall call upon the Lord shall be saved" (Rom. 10:13). John 3:16, the verse that many of us learned as a child, states that a refusal to acknowledge our personal sin and believe in the work of Christ instead of our own, declares we will perish in hell for all eternity. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only son, that whosoever believes in Him **SHOULD NOT PERISH**, but have everlasting life." Both heaven and hell are in that verse.

We believe that Christ on the cross suffered the punishment of hell in our deserved place. The Father accepts His Son's provision in our behalf. God is satisfied only with the work of His Son. We trust God's promises; the Bible is full of them. Faith takes for granted that when we rest upon the provision of Christ in our behalf, God does what He declares in our behalf. **WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO TRUST CHRIST TO BE YOUR PERSONAL SAVIOR?**

I hope to be one of the first to know of your resting in God's glorious promises. I will send you a special booklet for new believers, *THE NEW VENTURE*.

Additional free copies of this message are available. It is a reprint from our free publication, THE CHALLENGER. Also, available are nine free lessons of our free Home Bible Study Course.

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