

Basic Christianity– Bible Outline

Week 5 - What is a Christian? Part 1 - Repenting

Introduction (*if non-Christian*) So with the foundation set, What is a Christian? Someone who reads the Bible, goes to church, has been baptized, has talked to a pastor, walked down the aisle, prayed a prayer? What do you say?

Review / Questions

Week 1-3: The Stool. The first leg Jesus as Son of God with complete *authority*. The second leg - on the cross, Jesus bore the punishment for our sins as a *substitute*. The third leg - the resurrection of Christ, and our coming resurrection and judgment.

Week 4: We are saved, not of our own merit or righteousness, but of God's free and loving grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone.

What is a Christian? (Mark 1:15)

Read. A Christian, fundamentally, is one who belongs to the Kingdom of God. What does that mean according to passage? First, means we repent of sin, and secondly, believe good news. That's it! Repent, and believe. Today look at repentance.

What is Repentance? A Picture (Mark 8:34-38)

False repentance – child caught w/hand in the cookie jar. Fear of punishment not true repentance. Penance is not repentance. More than feeling bad or guilty. Read 8:34-35. To follow Christ we must deny self, put Christ first. *True* repentance – *turning from sin and surrendering to the God-given right of Jesus to be our King.* Presumes sin! (go to 2nd study if ?'s)

Repentance – Christ First... Before My Will (Mark 8:34-35)

Read. What does it mean put to Christ first? In repentance His will comes before ours. Illustration of house (move-in, regeneration; renovating, sanctification).

Repentance – Christ First... Before My Ambitions (Mark 8:36-37)

Read. What are you living for? Christ first means before our carnal, worldly ambitions (\$, power, etc.). Things aren't wrong unless put before Christ.

Repentance – Christ First... Before My Reputation (Mark 8:38)

Read. It's not always easy to put Christ before popularity. "Either we are unfaithful in order to be popular, or we will look unpopular in order to be faithful. We can't be both." No silent disciples. Those ruled by sin look first to self. Christians look to Christ.

Repentance – Christ First... Before My Pride (Mark 9:43-48)

Read. Jarring truth of literal heaven and hell. Radical surgery is needed. "Pride goes before destruction." (Pr. 16:18) – do not let it be your own. Submit to Christ as King.

Is it to Hard? (Mark 10:29-31)

"All this talk of submission, of denying to self, it's too difficult." *Read.* Jesus doesn't promise easy and trouble free life; not a crutch. Christ promises persecution. Yet promise that Jesus (1) will repay us "a hundred times" for hardships, and (2) in the next life, he will give us eternal life. Beautiful promise!

Summary and Conclusion - What is a Christian? One who puts Christ first by recognizes their sin, turning from it, trusting in Christ and travelling with Him. (Matt: 11:28-29) Will you put Christ first?

Homework – Mark: 1:8, 2:10, and 10:30, and consider the following question, "What gifts does God promise to those who repent and believe?"