

Wearing the Name "Christian"

TEXT: 1 Pet. 4:16

INTRODUCTION:

- A. FOUND IN THE NT. 3 TIMES(**Acts 11:26; 26:28; 1 Pet. 4:16**).
- B. IT IS WORN BY MANY WHO ARE NOT(**Acts 11:26; John 8:31**).

I. WHAT DOES WEARING THE NAME MEAN?

- A. THE HONOR IN WEARING THE NAME.
 - 1. Honor and dishonor connected with wearing certain names: i. e. Gentile, Samaritan, Publican, husband, Pharisee, **Texan**, Yankee.
 - 2. "Christian" is the greatest name of all.
 - a. God's people promised a **new name** signifying a **new relationship** (**Isa. 62:2**).
 - b. Early Christians proud to wear it(**1 Pet. 4:16; Acts 5:41**).
 - c. We wear not the name of an ordinance, man or angel, but the name of **God's own son**(**Gal. 6:14**).
- B. THE REWARD OF WEARING THE NAME.
 - 1. The blessing of a benevolent Father belongs to Christians.
 - a. Approach God as Father(**Matt. 7:7-11; James 1:5; 5:16**).
 - b. Material blessings(**Matt. 6:33; James 1:17; Psal. 37:25**).
 - 2. **All** spiritual blessings(**Eph. 1:3**).
- C. THE RESPONSIBILITY OF WEARING THE NAME.
 - 1. Honor and blessing responsibility; i. e. American, Baker, policeman, elder.
 - 2. Wearing the name "Christian" means assuming responsibility(**2 Tim. 2:15; Titus 2:14; 1 Pet. 2:9; Phil. 1:27; Eph. 4:1-3**).

II. THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BEING A CHRISTIAN AND WEARING THE NAME.

- A. DIFFERENT KINDS OF CHRISTIANS, DIFFERENT INTENSITIES, BETWEEN VARIOUS SHADES.
 - 1. Strong and weak(**Rom. 15:1**).
 - 2. Spiritual and carnal(**1 Cor. 3:1**).
 - 3. Hot and cold(**Rev. 3:15f.**).
 - 4. Stable and unstable(**Eph. 4:14-16**).
 - 5. Cornerstones and periphera.
 - 6. Steppingstones and stumbling blocks.
- B. **THESE DIFFERENCES CAN MEAN THE DIFFERENCE IN SALVATION.**
- C. **HOW CAN I TELL IF I AM JUST WEARING THE NAME?**
 - 1. Why did I become a Christian? Family, bandwagon, prestige?
 - 2. Am I truly separated from the world in my activities, recreation, language?
 - 3. What comes first in my life? What means more to me, a baptism or the Superbowl(**Matt. 6:33**).
 - a. How much time do I comparatively give to him? Money? Effort?
 - b. Do I attend when the door is open or when its convenient?
 - c. **Would I miss for some worldly activity?**

4. How do I react to strong teaching and preaching(**Gal. 4:16; John 6:66**).
5. Am I growing? Is my life changed? My point of view? My knowledge?
6. What about my concern for others and their salvation?

III. THREE FACTS ABOUT WEARING THE NAME "CHRISTIAN."

- A. IT IS WORN **VOLUNTARILY**(**Rev. 22:17**).
- B. WE WEAR IT **ALL THE TIME**(**Luke 9:23; Matt. 24:44**).
- C. WE OUGHT TO WEAR IT **INTELLIGENTLY**:
 1. Realizing our effect on others(**Matt. 5:13-16**).
 2. Realizing that we will be judged(**2 Cor. 5:10**).

CONCLUSION:

- A. ARE WE CHRISTIANS OR MERELY WEARING THE NAME?
- B. IF WE WEAR THE NAME WE MUST STRIVE TO LIVE UP TO IT.
- C. WE OUGHT ALWAYS TO STRIVE TO BE BETTER CHRISTIANS!