

WHY BE A CHRISTIAN

TEXT: Acts 26

INTRODUCTION:

- A. There is nothing that is more important than being a Christian!
 - 1. You may be a member of a political organization or political party.
 - 2. You may be a member of some social or cultural organization.

- B. But there is nothing more important than being a C – H – R – I – S – T – I – A – N !

TS: Consider, *Why Be a Christian?*

I. BECAUSE JESUS CHRIST IS THE SON OF GOD

- A. Matthew 16:16

- B. Jesus fulfilled prophecy, worked miracles, proclaimed who He was, and rose from the dead!
 - 1. Acts 2:22, Ye Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know
 - 2. John 20:30-31
 - 3. Romans 1:4...declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.

- C. *Born of a lowly mother without an earthly father; reared in meekness in a remote town called Nazareth; without credentials from the religious leaders of his day; had no accredited education from the schools of his time; hated by the religious leaders, yet followed by the poor, illiterate, downtrodden; falsely accused of blasphemy and mocked by the crowds with had formerly pursued Him; His death demanded by an angry mob, condemned to die by crucifixion, buried in a borrowed tomb; It would seem the world had heard the last of Him - but, NO! The pages of history are filled with the loves of those who would give their life for Him; His name has been above every name; His teachings have transformed individuals, communities, towns, cities, nations, and continents – Truly, this was the Son of God....”*

II. BECAUSE OF OUR NEED

- A. Man's greatest need: Forgiveness! Romans 3:23; 6:23; Isaiah 59:1-2; 1 John 1:6-10

- B. Forgiveness is through Christ! John 14:6
 - 1. He is the one – and only one – way to God.
 - 2. If you want to get to God, you must go through Jesus Christ!

III. BECAUSE OF THE CHRISTIAN WAY OF LIFE

- A. In Christ = new creature: Romans 6:3-4; 2 Corinthians 5:17
- B. Purpose and meaning to life: Matthew 22:37-40
- C. The Christian life is the right way to live: intellectually, morally, socially, spiritually.

IV. BECAUSE OF WHAT THE CHRISTIAN POSSESSES

- A. What does the child of God have?
 - 1. Forgiveness: 1 John 1:7
 - 2. Hope: Hebrews 6:19
 - 3. Prayer: 1 Peter 3:12
 - 4. Relationship with God: 1 John 1:3
 - 5. Hope of heaven: 1 Peter 1:3-4
- B. IN CHRIST we have a:
 - 1. LOVE that will never be fathomed;
 - 2. RIGHTEOUSNESS that will never be tarnished;
 - 3. PEACE that the world can't understand;
 - 4. JOY that will never be diminished;
 - 5. REST that will never be disturbed;
 - 6. HOPE that will never be disappointed!

CONCLUSION:

- A. There is a God, and Jesus Christ is His only begotten Son!
- B. Because of that, you should be a Christian – a member of Christ's church!
- C. Are you a Christian? If not, why not?