

Now that I'm a Christian...

“WHAT DO I DO NEXT?”

REALIZE THAT SUCCESS IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE DEPENDS UPON THE WILLINGNESS OF THE CHRISTIAN TO PUT FORTH A WHOLE-HEARTED EFFORT IN LIVING FOR CHRIST.

“Brethren, I count not myself to have laid hold: but one thing I do, forgetting the things which are behind, and stretching forward to the things which are before, I press on toward the goal unto the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 3:13-14. Also see: Philippians 2:12b-13 and Colossians 3:23

STUDY THE BIBLE SYSTEMATICALLY

- A. Do this regularly at a set time of day.
- B. The Bible can be studied by the following methods.
 - 1. THE BOOK METHOD – Reading thoroughly through a book at a time. (Start with John or Acts.)
 - 2. THE TOPIC METHOD – Studying what the Bible says concerning any given topic; such as love, faith, etc. (Use a concordance or a topical text book to assist you.)
 - 3. THE CHARACTER METHOD – A character is selected and a concordance used to assist you in finding the places in the bible where this character is described.
- C. When studying the Bible ask and answer the following questions concerning the passage under consideration:
 - 1. Who is speaking?
 - 2. For what purpose?
 - 3. During what age in Bible history?
 - 4. Who is addressed?
 - 5. What are the circumstances?

PRAY EVERY DAY

“In nothing be anxious; but in everything by prayer and supplications with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.” Philippians 4:6

- A. Pray at a definite time each day. (Daniel 6:10)
 - B. Make your prayers definite. (Romans 1:9)
 - C. Pray in utter humility and subjection to the will of God. (Matthew 26:39)
- “Prayer is the Christian’s breath, do not suffocate!” (Colossians 4:2-6)

PUT FORTH AN EFFORT TO WIN OTHERS TO CHRIST

Every Christian is to be:

- A. The light of the world. (Matthew 5:14)
- B. The salt of the earth. (Matthew 5:13)
- C. A preacher of the Word. (Acts 8:4)

SHUN EVIL COMPANIONSHIPS

- A. Bad companions corrupt good morals. (1 Corinthians 15:33)
- B. Do not “walk in the council of the wicked, nor stand in the way of sinners, nor sit in the seat of the scoffers”. (Psalm 1:1-6)
- C. This does not mean that we are to maintain a “holier than thou” attitude toward our former friends of the world, but simply that we will speak, act, and think as a true, consecrated Christian in their presence. Such a stand will rebuke their sin and they will either be drawn to the Saviour or will no longer desire our companionship. (Romans 6:16-17; 12:1-2; and 2 Corinthians 6:14-17)

FIND A BIBLE-BELIEVING, NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH AND BE FAITHFUL IN ATTENDANCE

- A. Remember that the services of the Church are held for the purpose of helping you. The Word is preached, songs are sung, the Lord's Table is spread, the fellowship offered, ALL FOR YOU. (Acts 2:42)
- B. We are not to forsake the assembly. (Hebrews 10:25)
- C. Regular observance of the Lord's Supper is vital to the Christian's spiritual well-being. (1 Corinthians 11:30; John 6:53-54; Acts 20:7; Acts 2:42; and Luke 22:19)

OBEY GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING

- A. Tithing is the plan of God for the support of His work. (1 Corinthians 9:13-14; Malachi 3:6-12)
- B. Abraham paid tithes to Melchizedek about 1900 B.C., 400 years before the giving of the Law. Jacob paid tithes to God about 1800 B.C., approximately 300 years before the giving of the Law. Hence, we see that it was a fundamental principle and in universal observance, and consequently could not be abolished when the Law was nailed to the cross, for the Law only related to those Laws given to the nation of Israel. (Genesis 14:20; Hebrews 7:1-10; and Genesis 28:22)
- C. Jesus raised every standard of the Old Testament. He never lowered a standard. (Matthew 5:20-22; 27-28; 43-44)

REVIEW OFTEN THE BENEFITS THAT ARE YOURS AS A CHRISTIAN. JUST THINK...

- A. God loved you enough while you were yet a rebel and an enemy to send his own Son for your salvation and happiness. (Romans 5:5-8)
- B. All of your sins are forgiven. (Acts 2:38)
- C. You now have Christ as your intercessor with the Father. (1 John 2:1-3)
- D. You have the Gift of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:38)
- E. You are a member of the Body of Christ. (Acts 2:46-47)

DO NOT BECOME DISCOURAGED

- A. Remember your task – the rescuing of precious souls for whom Jesus died.
- B. Remember your "Boss" – The Lord Jesus Christ; through him God can freely give us all things. (Romans 8:34 and James 1:5)
- C. Remember your reward – The rewards of the faithful Christian are souls won to Christ and assurance of heaven.
- D. Remember your adversary – Satan is ever vigilant and ready to deceive the child of God. (1 Peter 5:8-11; James 4:7)

UNDERSTAND GOD'S ESTIMATE OF LIFE

- A. God considers this life as but a pilgrimage. We are just 'passing through'. (Genesis 47:9; 1 Peter 2:11)
- B. God would have you know that every person living upon this earth is in possession of an eternal spirit which will spend eternity either in Heaven or Hell, depending entirely upon what they do with Jesus. (John 14:6; John 3:36; Mark 16:15-16)
- C. God would have you know that life is as fleeting as a vapor, (James 4:14), or a shadow, (Ecclesiastes 6:12). Let us then realize that many who are living today will never have another day or opportunity to accept Christ. Today is the day of salvation.