

WHY SHOULD WE LIVE TO FOLLOW CHRIST?

“Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

Romans 12:2

Why are we commanded to believe in Christ for salvation, and as such live to follow Him into eternal life with God?

Galatians 2:16, “Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.”

Ephesians 2:8-9, “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.”

To this Jesus said:

John 15:4, “As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.”

As such:

1 John 2:6, “He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.”

What’s more?

1 Peter 2:21, “For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps.”

Therefore Jesus clearly declared:

Matthew 16:24-26, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?”

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A HEART COMMITMENT TO FOLLOW CHRIST

*“Commit your works to the LORD,
and your thoughts will be established.”*

Proverbs 16:3

What defines the life of a true follower of Christ?

Colossians 3:17, “Whatever you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”

Proverbs 4:23, “Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it *spring* the issues of life.”

Why?

Matthew 15:19, “For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.”

1 Corinthians 6:20, “For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.”

1 John 5:3, “For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.”

What’s more?

1 Kings 8:61, “Let your heart therefore be loyal to the LORD our God, to walk in His statutes and keep His commandments.”

Romans 12:2, “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

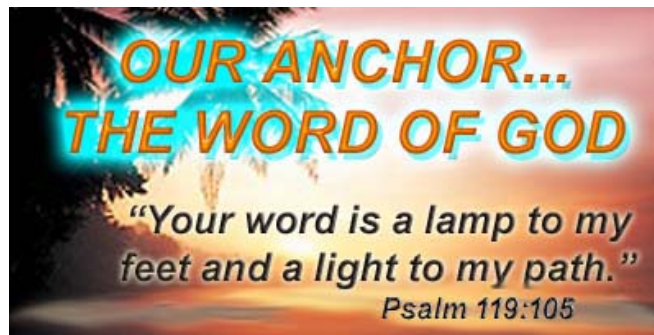
As such Jesus said:

John 8:12, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”

Luke 11:28, “More than that, blessed *are* those who hear the word of God and keep it!”

How genuine and strong is my faith in Christ? And how committed am I to follow Christ right now?

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What is our only sure anchor to guide us and keep us steadfast in following Christ?

2 Timothy 3:16-17, "All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

Why?

Hebrews 4:12, "For the Word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

As such:

Proverbs 18:15, "The heart of the prudent acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge."

What's more?

Proverbs 30:5, "Every word of God *is* pure; He *is* a shield to those who put their trust in Him."

Isaiah 40:8, "The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever."

The reason Jesus said:

Matthew 4:4, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God."

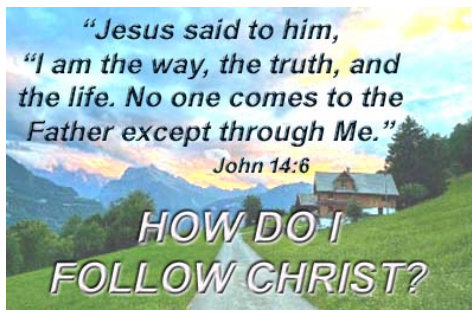
Matthew 24:35, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away."

Therefore:

James 1:22, "Be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."

How anchored am I to the Word of God, so I can discern the path to follow Christ?

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What does following Christ as Lord imply?

The Way:

John 3:16, "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

As such:

Acts 4:12, "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved."

The Truth:

John 8:31-32, "Jesus said, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

As such:

John 1:17, "The law was given through Moses, *but* grace and truth came through Jesus Christ."

The Life:

John 11:25-26, "Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die."

As such:

Romans 8:11, "If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you."

Therefore:

Romans 6:23, "The gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

As such:

Galatians 2:20, "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God."

Any question?

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HOW DO I FIND WISDOM & DISCERNMENT TO FOLLOW CHRIST?

*“See then that you walk
circumspectly, not as fools but
as wise, redeeming the time,
because the days are evil.”*

Ephesians 5:15-16

How must we live so as to avoid the snares of the evil world?

1 John 4:1, “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.”

Ephesians 5:6-7, “Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not be partakers with them.”

1 John 2:15, “Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”

What’s more?

Proverbs 3:5-6, “Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.”

Colossians 3:2, “Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.”

And as Jesus clearly said:

Luke 11:28, “Blessed *are* those who hear the Word of God and keep it!”

Why?

John 14:23, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.”

Therefore:

James 1:5, “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.”

Does my life testify to exercising wisdom and discernment?

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IS FOLLOWING CHRIST A WALK IN THE PARK?

“And you will be hated by all for My name’s sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved.”
Matthew 10:22

What does the Word of God tell us to expect for believing and following Christ wholeheartedly?

John 16:33, “In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”

As such:

2 Timothy 2:3-4, “You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of *this* life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.”

Why?

1 Peter 2:21, “For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps.”

2 Timothy 3:12, “All who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.”

What’s more?

James 1:12, “Blessed *is* the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.”

As such Jesus said:

Matthew 7:24, “Whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock.”

Therefore:

Ephesians 5:1-2, “Be imitators of God as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God.”

Am I committed to live to follow Christ, even through trials, hardships and even tribulation?

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How should our life be impacted if we profess to believe in Christ as Savior?

1 John 2:3-4, "Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him."

1 John 4:16, "And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him."

As such:

Galatians 5:24, "Those *who are* Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires."

What more is expected from our commitment to believe in Christ?

John 15:5, "I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing."

What is the purpose of bearing fruit?

John 15:8, "By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples."

What also does bearing fruit encompass?

Galatians 5:22-23, "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control."

Therefore:

Luke 3:8, "Bear fruits worthy of repentance."

Galatians 6:2, "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."

Does my life testify to being a disciple of Christ in bearing fruit to the glory of God?

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TRUE BELIEF IN CHRIST ENCOMPASSES

***“Be doers of the word,
and not hearers only,
deceiving yourselves.”***

James 1:22

How did Jesus clearly declare what true belief in Him as Savior encompass?

Matthew 16:24, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.”

Why?

Matthew 10:38, “He who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.”

Luke 9:26, “Whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in His *own* glory, and *in His* Father’s, and of the holy angels.”

Luke 9:62, “No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”

Matthew 7:21, “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.”

As such:

John 8:12, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”

What’s more?

Romans 8:9, “You are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.”

Therefore:

Hebrews 12:1, “Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.”

And again as Jesus clearly said:

John 14:15, “If you love Me, keep My commandments.”

Am I a true and committed believer and follower of Christ the Lord?

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