

Practical Christianity

"How Are We Doing?"
(Acts 15:36)

A Lesson Promoting Self-Examination

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Ozark MO

Christianity is not just for Sunday



EVERYONE WELCOME
CHURCH OF CHRIST
SUNDAY 10:00 am - 6:00 pm
WEDNESDAY 7:00 pm

Christianity is not just for church buildings



Christianity is for the work place





**And it should
go with us on
vacation**



**Christianity
is for the
market
place**

**Christianity
is for the
school house**

- **Christianity is not just for Sundays and the church house**
- **Christianity is for the workplace and the home, for vacation, for the market place, for when we are alone or in a crowd.**
- **Christianity is for seven days a week.**
- **This series of lessons I begin today is designed to educate and/or remind us of these truths. I call it "Practical Christianity" because I propose to teach mostly about **Monday through Saturday Christianity.****

Acts 15:36 Then after some days Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us now go back and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, *and see how they are doing.*"

2 Corinthians 13:5 **Examine yourselves** as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified.

❑ We live in an age of unusual spiritual privileges and advantages

- Easy access to the Bible
- Freedom of religion

❑ Greater privilege means greater responsibility
Lk. 12:48

❑ We also live in an age great spiritual danger

Matthew 24:12 *And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.*

- Appalling morals
- Alluring temptations
- Profession of Christianity without practice
- The Parable of the Sower is being illustrated before our eyes everyday

1. Do we ever think of our souls?

- **Isaiah 1:3** The ox knows its owner And the donkey its master's crib; *But* Israel does not know, My people do not **consider**."
- **Haggai 1:7** Thus says the Lord of hosts: "**Consider** your ways!"
- **Deuteronomy 32:39** 'Now see that I, *even I, am* He, And *there is no* God besides Me; I kill and I make alive; I wound and I heal; Nor *is there any* who can deliver from My hand.
- **Ecclesiastes 5:1** Walk prudently when you go to the house of God; and draw near to hear rather than to give the sacrifice of fools, for they do not know that they do evil.

2. Do we ever *do* anything about our souls?

- **Matthew 21:30** Then he came to the second and said likewise. And he answered and said, 'I *go, sir,*' but he did not go.
- **Ezekiel 33:31-32** So they come to you as people do, they sit before you *as* My people, and they hear your words, but they do not do them; for with their mouth they show much love, *but* their hearts pursue their *own* gain. Indeed you *are* to them as a very lovely song of one who has a pleasant voice and can play well on an instrument; for they hear your words, but they do not do them.

3. Are we trying to quiet our consciences with a mere outward display of Christianity?

- **Isaiah 1:11-20**
- **1 Samuel 15:22** So Samuel said: "Has the Lord *as great* delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, *And* to heed than the fat of rams."
- **Psalms 51:17** The sacrifices of God *are* a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart—These, O God, You will not despise.
- **Proverbs 21:3** To do righteousness and justice *is* more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice.
- **Hosea 6:6** For I desire mercy and not sacrifice, And the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.

3. Are we trying to quiet our consciences with a mere outward display of Christianity?

- **Micah 6:7-8** Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, Ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn *for* my transgression, The fruit of my body *for* the sin of my soul? He has shown you, O man, what *is* good; And what does the Lord require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?

4. Have we received the forgiveness of sin?

- **Acts 26:18** to open their eyes, *in order* to turn *them* from darkness to light, and *from* the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.
- **Ephesians 1:7** In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace

5. Have we been truly converted?

- **Matthew 18:3** "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.
- **Acts 26:20** but declared first to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem, and throughout all the region of Judea, and *then* to the Gentiles, that they should **repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance.**

What is “conversion”?

Acts 26:20 reveals the basic idea—

1. “Repent” — *metanoeo* — “to think differently or afterwards, i.e. reconsider”
— A change of heart and mind
2. “turn to God” — *epistrepho*
— A change of allegiance and direction
3. “do works befitting repentance”
— A change of behavior

Review of first lesson

- ❑ Christianity is not just for Sundays and the church house
- ❑ Self-examination required—“How are we doing?”
 1. Do we ever think of our souls?
 2. Do we ever *do* anything about our souls?
 3. Are we trying to quiet our consciences with a mere outward display of Christianity?
 4. Have we received the forgiveness of sin?
 5. Have we been truly converted?

6. Are we holy people?

- Hebrews 12:14 Pursue peace with all *people*, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord.
- 1 Corinthians 9:27 But I discipline my body and bring *it* into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.

7. Do we take advantage of the “means of grace”?

- Titus 2:11-13 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, **teaching us** that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.
- “Means of Grace” refers to three principal things
 1. Reading of the Bible
 2. Private Prayer
 3. Public Worship

8. Do we ever try to do any good in this world?

- Acts 10:38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, **who went about doing good** and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.
- Galatians 6:10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, **let us do good to all**, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

9. Do we live in communion with Christ?

- John 6:53-58
- John 15:1-4
- “Practice the Presence of Jesus Christ”
 - Jesus knows all
 - Proverbs 15:3 The eyes of the Lord *are* in every place, Keeping watch on the evil and the good.
 - Psalms 139:2 You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off.
 - Acts 17:30-31 Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”
 - Mold your life after the example and teaching of Jesus Christ
 - Luke 9:23 Then He said to *them* all, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.”

10. Are we ready for Christ's Second Coming?

- **Revelation 16:15** "Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed *is* he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame."
- **Luke 21:34** "But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly."
