

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Acts 11:22-26**.
- B. The Bible (NT) defines who is and who is not a Xian. The NT tells us everything we need to know about being a Xian. This morning; six characteristics of a Xian.

I. A CHRISTIAN IS CHOSEN.

- A. Chosen before the foundation of the world (Eph. 1:4).
just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love
- B. Chosen according to the predetermined plan of God (Rom. 8:30-31).
and whom He predestined, these He also called; and whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. **31** What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us?
- C. Chosen for salvation (2Th. 2:13)!
But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.
- D. Chosen to be priests, a nation, and a people for God (1Pet. 2:5, 9-10).
you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ... **9** But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; **10** for you once were NOT A PEOPLE, but now you are THE PEOPLE OF GOD; you had NOT RECEIVED MERCY, but now you have RECEIVED MERCY.

II. A CHRISTIAN IS CALLED.

- A. People are called to salvation by God through the preaching of the gospel (2Th. 2:14).
And it was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- B. Our calling is a holy one, according to God's purpose and grace (2Tim. 1:9).
who has saved us, and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity,...
- C. We also are to call upon the name of the Lord to be saved (Ac. 2:21).
'AND IT SHALL BE, THAT EVERYONE WHO CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD SHALL BE SAVED.'
- D. Sometimes there are special callings of God (Gal. 1:15).
But when He who had set me apart, even from my mother's womb, and called me through His grace, was pleased

III. A CHRISTIAN IS CLEANSED.

- A. Paul speaks of our past life of sin as being washed away or cleansed (1Cor. 6:11).
And such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the Spirit of our God.
- B. Ananias told Paul to be baptized for the washing away of his sins (Ac. 22:16).
'And now why do you delay? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.'
- C. This washing or cleansing is a spiritual regeneration (Titus 3:5).
He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,
- D. John uses an interesting word in Rev. 1:5, and says that we have been released from our sins.
and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the first-born of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us, and released us from our sins by His blood,

IV. **A CHRISTIAN IS CHANGED.**

- A. Jesus talked about being a converted or changed person (Mt. 18:3).
and said, “Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you shall not enter the kingdom of heaven.”
- B. Christians are sanctified and justified in X (1Cor. 6:11).
And such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the Spirit of our God.
- C. Christians are spiritually reborn (Jn. 3:5) and become a new creature in God’s sight (2Cor. 5:17).
(Jn 3:5) Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.
(2Cor 5:17) Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

V. **A CHRISTIAN IS CONSTRAINED.**

- A. One translation says, for “controls us”--“leaves no other choice.” Xians are under the control of X (2Cor. 5:14).
For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died;
- B. Jesus put it right on the line (Jn. 14:15).
“If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.”

VI. **A CHRISTIAN IS CONFIDENT.**

- A. We look forward to our new home in the heavenly realm (2Cor. 5:1).
For we know that if the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.
- B. When we ask, He will provide (1Jn. 5:14).
And this is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.
- C. Jesus will bring to completion that which He was to do through you (Phil. 1:6)!
For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Six wonderful blessings and characteristics of being a Xian:
 - 1. Chosen.
 - 2. Called.
 - 3. Cleansed.
 - 4. Changed.
 - 5. Constrained.
 - 6. Confident.
- B. Are you ready to be a Xian?
- C. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.