



July 18, 2010

You Might Not Be A Christian If ...

You really wonder what value there is to attending services. Are the things of the world so appealing that when it comes time to meet with the saints it seems like the last thing you want to do. That might signal that you have a problem. The writer of Hebrews deals with this when he states, ***“Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”*** (Heb 10.23-25). Are we disappointed or feeling that something important is missing in our lives when we are unable to go to services? If not then you just might not be converted. You might not be a Christian if you avoid talking about religion with others around you. You might try to justify this as an effort not to insult anyone or make anybody mad. Live and let live is a motto that many people want to live by and that unfortunately rolls over into religious things as well. Christ had a comment about this subject. ***“Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.”*** (Matt 5.32-33). That’s a very strong statement and one that I’m sure Christ will hold to. Are we embarrassed at the idea of letting others know we are a Christian. That would get in the way of our social standing and may endanger our recreational pursuits. If that is the case however, we have a problem. You might not be a Christian if you have doubts or misgivings about some of what the Bible says. I have known people who will believe in Jesus and the things that he did but just can’t wrap their heads around the story of creation, the flood, the creation of only two people in the beginning, the Exodus and many other things. The Bible is a package deal. We have to accept the whole thing. How many people would we trust in our own lives if we were able to prove that they were inconsistent in what they said or did? Why then would we claim to trust in a God whose book we really don’t accept? How do we know what is true or not without the guidance of the scriptures? We place a premium on being logical and sensible but we really don’t stop to think what our unbelief means in our lives and in the sight of God. The prophet stated of the Lord, ***“Then came the word of the LORD unto Jeremiah, saying, Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh: is there any thing too hard for me?”*** (Jer 32.26-27). I have pointed out in the past that the God I believe in not only could speak worlds into existence, but also has the ability to tell the story, have it written down and preserve it in the form he wants it kept in. You might not be a Christian if you just obeyed the Gospel to make somebody else happy. That happens a lot when children are raised by parents who are Christians. The kids follow suit cause that’s what the family is. I have heard some children refer to themselves as Christians because “that’s what we are” speaking in reference to the family. In this case being a Christian is no different than being a member of the YMCA. As a matter of fact there might be more value in that instance to a gym membership as there is a genuine lack of enthusiasm and conviction that shows itself sooner or later. Being converted brings with it some terror. We come to a realization that we have sinned against God. Sin killed Jesus and while we didn’t have the hammer and nails, we might as well have been the one that nailed Christ to the cross. When we come to that awareness there’s not much that will stop us from doing something about it. We have to become a Christian because we don’t want to be eternally lost. Paul describes the second coming in very specific terms and states that Christ will return ***“... In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel...”*** (2 Thess 1.8). Now, do we really have the dedication, desire and drive to get to Heaven or are we just fooling ourselves?

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