

## BEING A CHRISTIAN TAKES A LOT OF TIME

Luke 9:32

(Not entirely original with me)

**Introduction:** A man once remarked that "things have become out of hand when 'religion' is allowed to interfere with our private lives." Many a pastor has heard similar remarks from some who have complained about all the things their children and wives/husbands were involved in at their Church. For many being a Christian is going to a Sunday morning worship service and that's it. However that's not a "Christian" attitude nor is it what Jesus warned His followers about. Jesus warned those who wanted to follow Him that being a follower of Him would take up a lot, if not most of a person's time.

### 1. How much time did Stephen, Paul, Peter and others like them give to being Christians?

- Millions have followed Jesus cheerfully even to violent, sudden or lingering death because they did not let their faith/belief in the Lord interfere with their "private" lives.
- Those who feel that the Christian life takes up too much of their "private" time/life and are open about their feelings are really expressing what countless others feel and think.

### 2. A positive thing about expressing such feelings openly is that those who do are not being "hypocrites."

- So many pretend to be "religious" but don't want to give everything to the Lord but never openly admit such feelings, thus they are really "false" followers of the Lord.
- There are warnings for such who hide their true feelings and "pretend" to be loyal followers and that warning is that "they will be spewed out of the mouth of Christ.."

### 3. People need to remember that NOBODY is compelled to follow the Lord Jesus.

- "...*IF anyone would.....*" said the Lord, therefore making following Him strictly a voluntary choice.
- There are things, however, that are inescapable that interfere in following the Lord with all one's time -
  - Laws, duty, hunger, accident, natural disasters, illnesses, death, etc.
  - Necessities of life come and people have to "adjust" their lives to those unavoidable things.

### 4. Choices are made by everyone, everyday and one may choose to accept, refuse, receive or put aside whatever he/she chooses.

- Everyday a person can choose what, how much he/she will give to the Lord. Think about it!
- Don't YOU really give whatever time you want to the Lord? Don't you really attend whatever, whenever Church service you want to?

### 5. Whatever a person's heart is set on, that is the person's priority.

- A person will devote and even make time for that special thing he/she loves to do, even sacrificing needful things or time just for that special thing.
- There is little room for anything else other than what one's priority is. His/her whole life is filled with seeking, finding, fulfilling that priority.
- How many have their heart set on pleasing the Lord? How many devote as much time as possible to living the Christian life, that being their priority?
- Christian, whatever your heart is set on, that is what you will spend all the time you can find in doing.

**6. For the Christian, the world is different than for the non Christian.**

- The Christian has been "inwardly" separated from the world as he/she once was a part of and now his/her life is very different, yet he/she must continue to live in the same world with the same alienated from God people who are not God-conscious nor have any idea how to be.

**7. Christian, all the world has to offer cannot come near what living for the Lord can do or give.**

- Give the Lord Jesus ALL, for your life is your "cross" and to carry your cross requires your total attention and all your time and effort.

**CONCLUSION:**

1. Are you a "true" Christian or a "pretending" Christian? Your attitude toward how much time you want to give to living and serving the Lord speaks VERY loudly.
2. Jesus warned us that to follow Him, is like carrying a cross - it is a continuous thing, something that cannot be put down or aside and requires constant attention and effort.
3. The TRUE Christian will be called up to be with the Lord Jesus one day and to a new body, to a new place where he/she won't have to struggle to give the Lord time, for all the time of eternity will be his/her to give and live with the Lord.
4. Christian, take another look at your attitude in giving time to your Church, prayer, Bible study, and to telling others about the Lord Jesus. You really don't own your life anymore, it belongs to the Lord.