

How To Become A Christian

THE PASSAGE:

Mark 8:34-38

"If ANYONE...

Romans 10:9-13

Regardless of your **past** or **nature**

Would come after me

Gain **eternal life** with Jesus

They MUST...

It's a **requirement**, not an extra **elective**

✓ ***Deny self***

Colossians 3:5

- **Repent** of sin
- **Reject** the indulgence of the flesh
- **Relinquish** your role as king of your life

✓ ***Take up their cross***

Romans 12

- All in: your whole **life** as an **offering**
- Conviction that **transforms** not just belief that **agrees**
- True **evangelism** will produce **persecution**

✓ ***Follow me."***

John 14:15-26

- **Doing** the things that Jesus **does**
- **Becoming** more like him every day
- You'll **find yourself** where Jesus is

Food for Thought for the week of July 7, 2019

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

(NIV = New International Version)

1. Denying ourselves to follow Jesus can be no small challenge, as we heard this weekend. What hope do the following verses give that living a life based on God's plan (instead of our own) is well worth it?

Matthew 5:16 - ¹⁶ *In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.*

1 Peter 2:12 - ¹² *Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.*

2 Corinthians 2:14-15 - ¹⁴ *But thanks be to God, who always leads us as captives in Christ's triumphal procession and uses us to spread the aroma of the knowledge of him everywhere.* ¹⁵ *For we are to God the pleasing aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing.*

Can you think of a time in your life when the truth of these Scriptures came alive because you chose God's way over your own? If so, explain.

2. As we follow Christ, our self-denial is a daily process of continuing to keep Jesus in the driver's seat. The apostle Paul makes a similar statement to the church of Ephesus, speaking not only of things to stop but also of things that need to be done. As you read the passages below, jot down what Paul tells the Ephesians to stop and start doing.

Ephesians 4:29-5:3 - ²⁹ *Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.* ³⁰ *And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.* ³¹ *Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.* ³² *Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.* **5** ¹ *Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children* ² *and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.* ³ *But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people.*

Ephesians 5:15-16 - ¹⁵ *Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise,* ¹⁶ *making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.*

Can you think of any examples of God working in your life that made you stop or start one of the items Paul stated?

3. It isn't always just a matter of not wanting to deny ourselves to follow Jesus. It can also be a matter of not quite understanding how and what it takes. What insight and encouragement does God give us to continue to deny ourselves and to be willing to follow him?

Matthew 11:28-29 - ²⁸ *"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.* ²⁹ *Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.*

Galatians 2:20 - ²⁰ *I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*

Romans 8:5 - ⁵ *Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.*