

# Christians Only

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## Acts 11:22-26

- No longer Jew or Gentile, but by a name not as yet known until the first century AD.
- Isaiah 62:1-4 – Called by Christ (Acts 4:12); “Christian” denotes this relationship.
- The Greek ending denotes a slave or an adherent to Christ.
- It is not used in the NT as a term of derision, but a term of decision.

## “And The Disciples Were Called Christians First In Antioch” (Acts 11:26)

- They were known among themselves as, brethren, Acts 15:1; 15:23; 1Cor. 7:12, disciples, Acts 9:26, believers, Acts 5:14, saints, Rom. 8:27; 15:25.
- The name was bestowed after the Gentiles had seen the righteousness of Christ and His church. (Acts 10:34-38)
- Christians are “disciples” of Christ. The lives of the Antioch disciples clearly associated them with Him.
- Disciples are learners – the fundamentals are outlined in the Sermon on the Mount.
- Disciples are called – “Follow Me” Mat. 4:19; Col. 2:14; Rom. 1:16.
- Disciples are trained – Jn. 13:16-17 “Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.”
- Disciples are sent – Jn. 20:21.

## “Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian” (Acts 26:28)

- Christians cannot be “almost” persuaded, they must be fully persuaded.
- Cannot serve God and mammon (Mat. 6:24).
- Faith, repentance, confession, baptism.
- Follow daily (Lk. 9:23) – COMMITMENT!

- The rich, young, ruler was almost persuaded – Mk. 10:17-22, as were “many of His disciples” – Jn. 6:66.
- The apostles were fully persuaded – “Then Peter answered and said to Him, “See, we have left all and followed You. Therefore what shall we have?”” (Mat. 19:27) Cf. Acts 8:4.
- “Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward.” 2 Jn. 8

## “Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf” (1 Pet. 4:16)

- Jn. 15:18-19 “If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.”; 1 Jn. 3:13 “Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world hates you.”
- Acts 14:22 “Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.”
- Turned the world upside down (Acts 17:6).
- The sect spoken against (Acts 28:22).
- Christians constitute the “house of God”, at which judgment begins – 1 Pet. 4:17.
- “And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and sinner appear?” – 1 Pet. 4:18.

### *Decision...*

- Of all people throughout history, Christians are blessed to wear the name of Jesus Christ.
- It is a name that signifies ownership.
- It is a name that signifies persuasion and commitment.
- Those who wear it are willing to stand up, stand out, and stand fast for Christ.