

What is a Christian?

- Unwavering conviction that Jesus is the Christ the Son of the living God (Rom. 10:9-10).
- His absolute authority accepted and every word trusted. No doubt or question (Lk. 6:46)?
- Trust His promise: Holy Spirit perfectly led His apostles and prophets into all truth (Jn. 16:13).
- Every written word as accurate and perfect today as when first revealed. (Mt. 24:36; 1Pet. 1:22-25).
- If not a core conviction, we are Christians in name only. In the end, Jesus will deny us. (Mt. 7:21-23).
- We will never suffer as a Christian if we are not willing to stand and even die for these things.

The Testing of our Faith

- When science, politics, and current cultural norms agree with Scripture no conflict.
- But Man's wisdom denies Scripture godly stand firm
 - Daniel with unclean food
 - Shadrach Meshach and Abednego and the idol.
- Genuine servants of God never compromise.
- There is a grave peril for us that is arising today:
- “*in name only*” Christians who make all these compromises and convince the world they are genuine
- When we still stand it is not because we are Christians
- It is because, in their eyes, we are “fanatics” “narrow minded” and “bigots” harsh terms to create animosity

Baby Steps toward Doubt

- Science denies Scripture: Evolution
- God revealed how He created in 6 days Gen. 1
- Jesus confirmed God's account:
- *“But from the beginning of the creation, God ‘made them male and female.’”* (Mk. 10:6).
- When a vast segment of “in name only” Christians accept evolution and deny Scripture
- Yet a small minority stands on the Scripture
- Suffering as a Christian begins.
- This grave peril has led many to change the days of Genesis to ages ... leaving true Christians to look more and more foolish in the eyes of the world.

Stirrings and Shifting of Human Wisdom

- Still want the name Christian
- Want Jesus to be their Lord
- Want the comfort of eternal life
- BUT...
- Want to keep their status in world
- Don't want to suffer as a Christian
- A very seductive position has opened.
- Divide Jesus from the Scriptures
- Divide Jesus from the apostles and prophets.

Is Jesus our Lord?

- A question with a very simple answer:
- *But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say?*
- If we call Him Lord, then we submit in everything.
- We don't choose what we will believe
- We don't choose which commands we like or trust
- Those who pick and choose call Jesus Lord, but it is only a name, not a reality.
- If we call Him Lord we **MUST** do what He says and we **MUST** believe all that He said.
- Is Jesus truly my Lord or in name only?

Jesus is Lord only if we DO what He said

- When we read the rest of the passage all is clear:
- *"But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say? 47 Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like: 48 He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock. 49 But he who heard and did nothing is like a man who built a house on the earth without a foundation, against which the stream beat vehemently; and immediately it fell. And the ruin of that house was great." Luke 6:46-49*

Jesus is Lord only if we DO what He said

- *"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' 23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!' Matt 7:21-27*
- *24 "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock:*

Hear and Not DOING = No Foundation

24 "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: 25 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

26 "But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: 27 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall." Mt. 7:24-27