

A BIBLE CHRISTIAN: ROYAL PRIVILEGE, QUALIFICATIONS, BLESSINGS

A. ROYAL PRIVILEGE OF BEING A BIBLE CHRISTIAN

1. *Being identified with Christ:*

- a. This identity held great significance for the martyrs for Christ - Rev. 2:1-6

2. *The significance of the name:*

- a. It signifies a relationship - Acts 11:26
- b. It conveys an attitude - Acts 24:14, 21-23
- c. It signifies commitment to service - 1 Cor. 1:17-19

B. QUALIFYING AS A CHRISTIAN

1. *Acceptance of Jesus Christ as a personal Savior:*

- a. The example of the man from Ethiopia - Acts 8:37-40
- b. The transformation of Paul - 1 Tim. 1:15; Gal. 2:20; Phil. 1:20

2. *Confessing the Lord Jesus in word and deed:*

- a. 1 John 4:1-3; Rom. 10:10
- b. Matt. 10:32; Luke 12:10

3. *Becoming loyal disciples of Jesus:*

- a. This requires self-denial - Matt. 16:24; Mark 14:31
- b. It involves bearing personal crosses - Matt, 10:38; Luke 14:27
- c. One of the severest tests of Christian discipleship is to bear Christ's marks - Gal. 5:11; 6:12

4. *Compliance with all Lord's commands is a key requirement:*

- a. Luke 6:46
- b. John 8:31
- c. Rom. 2:13

d. James 1:22-25

C. BLESSINGS OF BEING A BIBLE CHRISTIAN

1. Complete salvation from sin is promised to believers:

a. Matt. 1:21; Rom. 8:1, 31-33

b. 1 Tim. 1:15; Luke 23:42-44; Luke 19:9; Acts 8:37-39

2. Co-heirship with Christ:

a. Inheriting all God's promises - 2 Pet. 1:2-7

b. Eph. 1:22, 23

3. Eternally victorious over enemies:

a. Over Satan - Rom. 16:20; Ezek. 28:18

b. Over sin and death - 1 Cor. 15:26; 50-58; Heb. 2:14-16

4. Participation in the resurrection of the Just - Luke 14:14

5. Grant of immortality:

a. John 3:16; 1 John 5:10-12

b. Rom. 6:23; Mark 10:28-30; John 6:54; 1 Tim. 1:17; 6:15,16

6. The gift of the Holy Ghost - Acts 2:37-39; 19:1-3

7. The question to ponder:

Why aren't you a Christian? It is not a casual question, but rather a significant challenge to those who hesitate.

8. Some common excuses for not being Christians:

a. "I'm waiting until I am strong enough." Christ's answer: "Without me, you can do nothing."
- John 15:5

b. "I'm not ready yet." The Biblical answer: "Now is the accepted time." - 2 Cor. 6:1 – 3

c. "It's too hard." The Savior's answer: "My yoke is easy, and my burden is light." - Matt. 11:30

d. "There are too many hypocrites in the church." Our Lord's answer, "Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?" - Matt. 7:1-4

D. EMBRACING CHRISTIANITY

Overcoming Doubt:

One must move past doubt and fear. Faith is a journey, and every journey begins with a single step.

The Role of the Church:

It serves as a spiritual home where you can grow in your relationship with God and fellowship with other believers.

The Power of Prayer:

Prayer is a powerful tool in developing a closer relationship with God. It's a way to communicate your fears, confess your sins, and seek guidance.

Living a Christian Life:

Christianity is not just a belief system but a way of life. It involves imitating Christ's humility, compassion, and love for all.

E. THE POWER OF A CHRISTIAN LIFE

The Influence:

Your Christian life can have a significant impact on others, serving as a light in the darkness for those around you.

The Peace:

Living in Christ offers a unique peace that surpasses understanding, helping you navigate life's ups and downs.

The Hope:

As a Christian, you possess a hopeful perspective of eternity, which gives life a deeper purpose and joy.

The Community:

Christianity fosters a sense of belonging, offering a community that supports and encourages each other in faith.

In conclusion, being a Bible Christian is a royal privilege, a journey that comes with certain qualifications, but ultimately it is an immensely rewarding path. It promises blessings, gives hope, peace, and offers an eternal perspective. So, the challenge remains - Why aren't you a Christian yet?