



Why Should You Give Your Life To Christ?

DISCOVERING GOD'S WORD BIBLE STUDY SERIES

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Why should you give your life to Christ? You have many important decisions to make during your lifetime (i.e. who you will marry, where you will live, etc.). However, you will never make a more important decision than the decision whether or not to give your life to Christ! All other decisions will be impacted by this decision! In fact, where you spend your eternity will be determined by this decision!

What It Means To Give Your Life To Christ

In Luke 14, Jesus discusses the need to count the cost of discipleship. He discusses an individual who intends to build a tower, how that he will first count the cost to see if he has what it takes to finish the tower before he begins to build it. He also discusses a king who will count the cost to see if he has what it takes to win a battle before he engages in it. Likewise, you must count the cost to see if you will be willing to give your life entirely to Christ *before* you come to Him (see verses 25-33).

Perhaps Galatians 2:20 best describes what it means to give your life to Christ. Paul said, "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me." Christ offered Himself as a sacrifice for you (we will talk more about this later). Recognizing this, Paul said he had been "crucified with Christ." He further explained that his life was no longer about himself. When you give your life to Christ, you are offering yourself to Him entirely. In the book of Romans, Paul talks about presenting your body as a living sacrifice to God (Romans 12:1). Your life is surrendered to God. No longer do you live for your own pleasures and desires. Rather, you live with the purpose of serving God and bringing glory and honor to Him. Jesus said, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me" (Luke 9:23). To what extent does your life become Jesus Christ's? To the extent that you would even die for Him (Luke 9:24-26)! Everything you are becomes Jesus'!

But why? Why should you give your life to Christ in this way? Why not live your life to please yourself? Let's observe.

Because Of What Christ Has Done For You

Jesus Christ was in Heaven (the place in which there is no pain, sorrow, death, evil, etc.). Yet, He left Heaven to come to earth (a place full of pain, sorrow, death, evil, etc.). Why did He do this? "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich" (2 Corinthians 8:9). He did this for you – so that you can become *spiritually* rich!

Christ endured many things for your sake while He lived on this earth (i.e. hatred, envy, etc.). One of those things He endured was temptation. Christ was tempted by the devil (see Luke 4:1-13). However, notice what the writer of the book of Hebrews said, "For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin" (Hebrews 4:15). In living a sinless life, Christ provided you with a perfect example to follow and He was able to be the perfect sacrifice.

Ultimately, Jesus knew that His purpose in coming to earth was to give His life as a ransom sacrifice (Matthew 20:28). Consider what Christ endured for you. (1) He was betrayed and denied by His own apostles. (2) He was scourged, ridiculed, given unfair trials, and spat upon after He was arrested (even though He had committed no crime). (3) He was put to death by crucifixion (having His hands and His feet nailed to the cross).

Was God defeated when Jesus was put to death on the cross? Not at all! Jesus rose from the dead on the third day – just as He had promised! You can read of Jesus' resurrection in Matthew 28. A short time later, Jesus ascended to Heaven (Acts 1:9-11).

Therefore, you should give your life to Christ because He gave His life for you. Christ loved you enough to do all of this for *you*! The life, death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ was the only way that you could have the opportunity to be forgiven of your sins, be victorious over physical death, and live eternally with God in Heaven (read Romans 5:6-11). Won't you allow the love of Christ to take control of your life (2 Corinthians 5:14-15) by giving your life to Him who gave His life for you?

Because Of What It Means To Die Without Christ

Sin occurs whenever you violate the law that God has revealed in the New Testament (1 John 3:4). There are many sins identified in the Bible (see 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; Galatians 5:19-21; Colossians 3:5-9; etc.). If you are living in your sins, know that you are living without Christ. This means that you are a living while you are: Separated from God (Isaiah 59:1-2), an enemy of God (James 4:4), and without hope (Ephesians 2:12). But, what does it mean to *die* without Christ?

First, recognize that your life on earth is coming to an end. James wrote about the brevity of life on this earth by comparing it to a vapor that appears for only a very short time before vanishing away (see James 4:13-16). Yes, you do have an appointment with death (Hebrews 9:27). You will either die while you are living in your sins (without Christ) or while you are living a life that is pleasing to Christ. When you die, you can no longer change your life! Are you ready for this day?

One day, Jesus Christ will return and judge everyone who has ever lived on this earth – including you! Paul wrote, “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad” (2 Corinthians 5:10). You will stand before Christ and give an answer for how you have lived your life – whether you have lived your life for sin or whether you have lived your life for Christ! When this day comes, you will not be able to change your life! Are you ready for this day?

Eternal punishment awaits those who have disobeyed God. There is a place called Hell that has been prepared for the devil and his angels (Matthew 25:41). All those who do evil will be punished in this same way! Paul wrote that those who “do not know God” and those who “do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ” will be “punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power” (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9). Yes, all who die in their sins will receive the wages of their sin, which is eternal punishment in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone (see Romans 6:23 and Revelation 21:8).

Therefore, you should give your life to Christ because of what it means to die in your sins! After your life ends and you are judged, you will find yourself in a place of eternal punishment *if* you die in your sins!

Because You Can Be Saved

Paul wrote, “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23). You deserve to spend eternity in Hell because of your sin. However, the gospel’s message is that you do not have to spend eternity in Hell. You can be saved!

God wants everyone to be saved (1 Timothy 2:4). He has demonstrated that He wants you to be saved by sending His Son (Jesus Christ) into the world to die for you (John 3:16), as previously discussed. Furthermore, He has delayed sending Jesus Christ to judge this world because He is giving everyone the opportunity to repent of their sins (2 Peter 3:9).

Though God has made it possible for you to be saved, you still have a part in your salvation. You must be obedient to God! He has said that you must hear His word (Romans 10:17), believe (Hebrews 11:6; John 8:24), repent of your sins (Acts 17:30-31), confess Christ (Romans 10:9-10), and be baptized (Acts 2:38; 1 Peter 3:21) in order to be forgiven of your sins. After becoming a Christian, you must then live a life of faithfulness (Revelation 2:10), living a life that brings glory to God (Matthew. 5:16).

Therefore, you should give your life to Christ because you can be saved! Rather than spending your eternity in Hell, you can spend your eternity in Heaven! God has given you the opportunity to be saved! Will you take advantage of this opportunity He has given you – by giving your life to Him?

Because You Can Help Others Go To Heaven

You must devote your life to Christ in order to be saved. This is the most important decision you will ever make – because of what it means for your own soul *and* for the souls of those around you!

When you give your life to Christ, you have the responsibility to tell others the good news about Jesus Christ! After all, when you become a Christian and understand the joy of salvation, you will want to tell others what you have learned!

When you become a preacher of the gospel of Christ, you will help others: Realize what it means to give their lives to Christ, realize what Christ has done for them, realize what it means to die in their sins, realize that they can be saved, and realize they can help others go to Heaven! 2 Timothy 2:2 demonstrates that it is God’s plan for those who are taught the gospel to teach others, who will then also be able to teach others! This is how God designed for His saving message to be spread.

Therefore, you should give your life to Christ because you can help others go to Heaven! Many people around you are lost in their sins, walking on the path that leads to Hell. You can help snatch them from Hell’s fire (Jude 1:23)!

Conclusion

It is my hope and prayer that you have come to recognize why you should give your life to Christ. Now, the choice is yours! God has made it possible for you to not perish in your sins and be saved eternally! But, will you make the decision to come to Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins? You come to Christ by taking the steps previously mentioned (hearing, belief, repentance, confession, and baptism). Then, you must live a life of entire devotion to Jesus Christ. Won’t you take those steps today? You do not know if you will have another opportunity to give your life to Christ! 2 Corinthians 6:2 says, “...Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.”

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