

The Biblical Description of the Christian (2)

Introduction

- A. The person who receives Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord becomes a Christian. It is very helpful to realize what the Bible says about those who believe.
- B. Many of our problems as Christians is from having a poor self-image. We must learn to believe God and not our feelings nor our circumstances.

I. The Christian is Described as God's Inheritance, Deuteronomy 4:20.

But the Lord hath taken you and brought you forth out of the iron furnace, even out of Egypt, to be unto Him a people of inheritance as ye are this day.

Observation: An inheritance, in the Bible, is something of importance and value. This is what the believer is to God. We are His inheritance.

II. The Christian is Described as God's Holy and Special People, Deuteronomy, 7:6.

For thou art an holy people unto the Lord thy God; the Lord thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto Himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth.

Observation: The term "holy" in this verse means "set apart" and the word "special" refers to the Christian as a "purchased, valuable possession." The believer is all of this simply by virtue of the new birth.

III. The Christian is Described as Salt and Light, Matthew 5:13,14.

Ye are the salt of the earth ... Ye are the light of the world

Observation: These terms indicate how the Christian can be a witness for God. We are as salt to hinder and limit the evil- forces about us. We are as light to bring the Word and grace of God to other people.

IV. The Christian is Described as a Branch in the Vine, John 15:5.

I am the vine, ye are the branches. He that abideth in Me and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit, for without Me ye can do nothing.

Observation: The Christian is as intimately related to Jesus Christ as the branch is related to the vine. As the vine upholds, cares for the branch and bears fruit through it – so Christ is all of that to the Christian.

V. The Christian is Described as the Flock and the Church of God, Acts 20:26.

Take heed therefore unto yourselves and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Spirit hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which He hath purchased with His own blood.

Observation: This verse, addressed to pastors, indicates the place of esteem and tender affection God has for His people. The church (called-out people) belongs to Him and He watches over His people as a shepherd would the flock. The Christian is important to God

VI. The Christian is Described as an Heir of God and a Joint Heir with Christ, Rom. 8:17.

And if children, then heirs; heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ, if so be that we suffer with Him, that we may be also glorified together.

Observation: Here the Christian is taught that he has been made the recipient of many gifts of God's grace. We can call God our Father and depend upon Him to supply our need. We have been accepted by God through Jesus Christ and share the benefits of His Death and Resurrection.

VII. The Christian is Described as Adopted by God, Galatians 4:4,5.

But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

Observation: Through the miracle of adoption the Christian has been brought into a living relationship with God. We have all the rights and privileges of adoption. We belong to Him and He has assumed all responsibility for us. You, as a believer, have the privilege of calling upon Him.

VIII. The Christian is Described as the Recipient of All Spiritual Blessings, Eph. 1:3.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.

Observation: Every Christian has been given all he needs for a successful daily life. God, Who knows the believer's every need, has made a complete provision for Him in the atonement and has given all of this provision to each believer. You may not know it – but you have it all!

IX. The Christian is Described as Sealed with the Holy Spirit, Eph. 1:13.

In Whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the Word of truth, the Gospel of your salvation, in Whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise.

Observation: The sealing of the Holy Spirit refers to protection, genuineness and ability. This indicates that the believer is genuine, that he has the wisdom and power to live for God and is under divine protection.

X. The Christian is Described as God's Ambassador, II Cor. 5:20.

Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us, we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

Observation: The Christian is an ambassador for God whether he knows it, wants to be that, or lives like that. We represent God to others.

XI. The Christian is Described as a Son of God, I John 3:1.

Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

Observation: The privilege of being a son of God has been given to all of those who have believed upon Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord (John 1:12). It indicates a relationship of acceptance accompanied with such blessings as forgiveness, justification, protection and calling.

Conclusion: Do these descriptions refer to you?

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