

**How to Become a *Real* Christian**  
**What does it mean, “to accept Christ”?**  
**“...what must we do?” *Acts 2:37-42***



**The definition of “Christian”:** one who professes belief in the teachings of Jesus Christ

In order to accept Christ and his teachings, one must know his teachings and desire to obey and profess them.

The four Gospels and especially the Sermon on the Mount are good places to become acquainted with Jesus and his teachings.

When Jesus was asked what is the greatest commandment, this was his answer: Mark 12:28-30 “HEAR, O ISRAEL! THE LORD OUR GOD IS ONE LORD; <sup>30</sup>AND YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.”

Jesus’ definition of the gospel was the gospel of the kingdom. Matthew 4:23; 9:35; Luke 16:16

Acts 2:37 “when they heard, they were pierced to the heart...” (they understood the message of the kingdom, but now they realized that God made Jesus to be Lord and that he was the promised Messiah and they wanted to know what they must do to receive this or show their acceptance of it.)

They asked what they must do. The answer was simple...turn (repent) from your unbelief and your sins and be baptized. When we do this, we receive the gift of holy spirit – God’s personal presence and power, in our lives.

Acts 2:38 “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the holy spirit.”

Again, before people could make a commitment to believe or to follow, it was essential that they knew what they would choose to believe and whom they would follow. The following verse lays it out quite clearly as to what one must understand and believe if they want to commit to following Jesus (accept Jesus) and take the first step of obedience, baptism.

Acts 8:12 “But when they believed Philip preaching the **good news about the kingdom of God** and the **name of Jesus Christ**, they were being baptized, men and women alike.”

It would seem that people need to understand, as a minimum, the truths about the kingdom of God and who Jesus is. Also, it would make sense that they must understand and believe the greatest commandment that Jesus taught (Mark 12:27-30) – to know that God is one, the Father alone is God. Once they understand these few simple things, and understand that there is a cost to discipleship, to following Jesus, they need to decide if they want to obey and follow him. If they do, then they are baptized, confessing the name of Jesus, and then they continue learning and growing so to become more like Jesus, the one they chose to follow.



## Walk in the newness of the life that Jesus gave you, renew your mind, and continue working out your salvation.

### What does it mean to **walk in newness of life**? *Romans 6*

- Baptism represents dying to your old self and having a new life
- Your old self is crucified
- Your body of sin is done away with
- You are no longer a slave to sin
- You are freed from sin
- Death is no longer your master (you don't have to be afraid of death or worry about dying)
- Jesus was resurrected and you also will be resurrected (when he returns to the earth)
- You died to sin
- You live for God
- You don't let sin reign in your life
- You don't obey sin's lusts
- You don't use your body to commit sin
- You present yourself to God (alive from the dead, no longer a slave to sin)
- You use your body for righteousness
- You know that sin cannot master you anymore
- You are not under the Law
- You are under grace
- You are a slave for obedience (and obedience results in righteousness)
- You are obedient from your heart (because you want to be)
- You are ashamed of sin
- You are sanctified (set apart, declared holy, dedicated to God)
- As a result of walking in the newness of this life that Jesus died to give you, your outcome is to have life in the age to come (eternal life)
- Life in the age to come is a free gift from God in Jesus
- Jesus is your Lord

### What does **renewing your mind** look like? *Romans 12:17-32; Romans 12*

- It is your spiritual act of worship to present your body as a living and holy sacrifice
- You no longer conform to the world
- You are transformed (you practice living the transformed life and are able to do this by renewing your mind)
- You renew your mind (this will help you know and prove what God's will is and know what is good, acceptable and perfect)
- You are given gifts because of God's grace
- You are in one body, but the members have different functions
- You are to exercise the gifts that are given to you



- Prophesying
  - Serving
  - Teaching
  - Exhorting
  - Giving freely
  - Leading with diligence
  - Showing mercy cheerfully
- You love without hypocrisy
  - You hate what is evil
  - You cling to what is good
  - You are devoted to the brethren
  - You honor the brethren
  - You don't lag behind in diligence
  - You are fervent in spirit
  - You serve the Lord
  - You rejoice in hope
  - You persevere in tribulation
  - You are devoted to prayer
  - You give to the needs of the saints
  - You practice hospitality
  - You bless those who persecute you
  - You do not curse those who persecute you
  - You rejoice with those who rejoice
  - You weep with those who weep
  - You are not haughty (prideful)
  - You associate with the lowly
  - You don't think yourself too wise
  - You NEVER pay back evil for evil to ANYONE
  - You respect what is right (what God says is right)
  - As far as depends on you, you try to be at peace with all men
  - You never take revenge (you leave room for God's wrath; He will repay)
  - If your enemy is hungry, you feed him
  - If your enemy is thirsty, you give him something to drink
  - Do not be overcome by evil
  - You overcome evil with good

### How do you **work out your salvation**? *Philippians 2:1-18*

- You be of the same mind as Messiah Jesus
- You maintain the same love as Christ
- You are united in spirit with Messiah (Christ)
- You are intent on one purpose (same purpose as Christ – Luke 4:43)
- You do nothing out of selfish ambition



- You do things with humility (have a humble mind)
- You regard other brethren as more important than yourself
- You do not just look out for your own interests, you look out for the interests of others
- You have the same attitude that Jesus had
  - Empty yourself (be humble)
  - Be God's servant
- You obey God and Messiah Jesus (obedience is how we work out our salvation with fear and trembling)
- You allow God to work in you
- You do all things without grumbling or disputing
- You prove yourself to be blameless and innocent, children of God, and above reproach
- You hold fast to the word of life
- You rejoice when you are poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith
- You share your joy

## Training in Evangelism

Training in Evangelism begins with training in biblical truth. If we are to be an evangelist for Jesus, we must know what he taught and be able to teach it to others.

Jesus spent three years preaching and teaching about the coming kingdom of God, God's future government that will reign over all the earth. Jesus spent 40 days after his resurrection before going to the Father preaching and teaching about the kingdom of God. Jesus also told us what he thought the greatest commandment was – to know that God is one and to love that God.

In Acts we see that the two required points of understanding before baptism are: belief in what Jesus taught about God's coming kingdom, and, belief in the things concerning Jesus (who he was, God's anointed one, His chosen Messiah).

In order to pass on these key teachings of Scripture, we first must be grounded in them ourselves. We must not only cognitively understand them, but we must know them so well that we can share them with others at any given time. We will get to this point with study at first, and then by constantly talking about them with the brethren. This will help us to be able to talk about them without having to think about every word, and we will speak with confidence.

We have a much greater opportunity today for God's people to be able to practice evangelism. We can, and should, share with those around us, but we now have the internet, the new *Roman Road*, to take the gospel to the world.

Whether in person or online, *QUESTIONS* are key.

- Are you familiar with a biblical end-time timeline?
- Have you ever wondered what happens when you die?
- Have you ever heard a sermon on the kingdom of God?
- What is the gospel?
- Why would you want to go to heaven if Jesus won't be there?