

THE WORD & SPIRIT

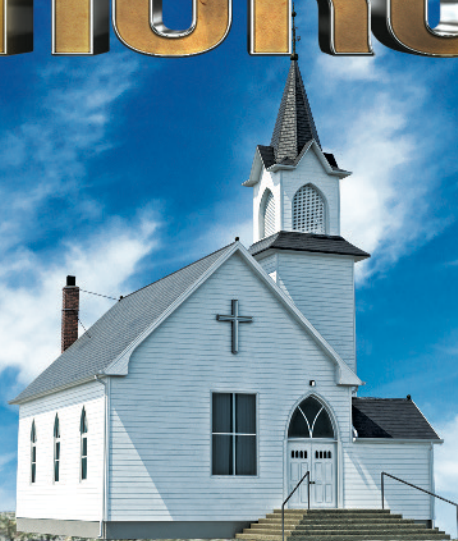


WATCHING IN THE SPIRIT • EZK 33:7

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VOL. 33 ISSUE 5

THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH



Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God

**AND I SAY ALSO UNTO THEE, THAT THOU ART PETER, AND
UPON THIS ROCK I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH; AND THE GATES
OF HELL SHALL NOT PREVAIL AGAINST IT. - MATTHEW 16:18**

WORD & SPIRIT • GATLINBURG, TN // OPERATIONS OF THE HOLY GHOST • TULSA, OK

RANDALL GRIER MINISTRIES

THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks. For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. Be not ye therefore partakers with them. For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light: (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret. But all things that are reprov'd are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light. Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. (Ephesians 5:2-14)

The Holy Ghost, through the Apostle Paul, gave instructions about how Christians are to live their lives many times in his writings. The above scriptures are just one example of many things he said about how Christians should live their lives. I am sure you agree with what he said, and you are living what the Bible says.



PATTI, RANDALL, & RANDALL GRIER JR.

Christian

In order to define a *Christian Church* we must first define the word *Christian*.

Most of the modern day church lost the definition of the word *Christian* in 2006. It became unpopular to confront a person who called themselves a *Christian*, yet had no evidence of it in their daily lives. Now, almost any lifestyle, Biblical or not, is accepted as a *Christian* by the modern, compromising church. The local church is the backbone of Christianity. The Lord is building strong, Word and Spirit, churches.

Many people believe if they live in the United States they are a *Christian*. Others have the idea that if they were dedicated to the Lord as a baby, they are a *Christian*. Millions upon millions believe if they attend church they are a *Christian*. There are millions, perhaps billions of people, who are not born again, that call themselves a *Christian*.

This occurs because most churches no longer have any qualifications that have to be met in order to be called a *Christian*. This does not agree with the Bible or the Lord Jesus Christ.

...And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch. (Acts 11:26b)

It was in Antioch that the disciples of Jesus Christ were first called Christians. Today, being a disciple of Jesus Christ can mean something different than it did in Antioch. Today, it can mean that if you agree with a church creed or think Jesus was the Son of God, you are a Christian. Sadly, there are millions in the United States that are on their way to hell that agree Jesus is the Son of God. Again, some of the church world helps perpetuate this way of thinking by having no qualifications to be a Christian.

You can live like the devil, act like the devil, dress like the devil, talk like the devil, smell like the devil and still call yourself a Christian in many churches. If you act like the devil, live like the devil, talk like the devil, dress like the devil and think like the devil, you is the devil according to the Bible.

Jesus Defines Disciple

Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed. (John 8:31)

Disciples of Jesus were first called Christians in Antioch. To be a Bible Christian you first must be a disciple of Jesus Christ. Who is a disciple? According to these words of Jesus, it is a person that does not depart from the words of Jesus. The word *continue* means, **does not depart** in the above verse. He said, "If you continue in my word, then you are my disciples indeed." *Indeed* means **truly or most certainly** in this verse. That means we don't have to guess.

Jesus Christ defined the qualification to be called a Christian. Any other definition is unbiblical or false doctrine. There is a mindset that thinks what others have said supersedes the words of Jesus. Jesus is The King of Kings and Lord of Lords! His Words have utmost priority over everything else anyone has ever said. Thank you for agreeing with me.

Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

The word *see* above means to perceive or discover. I was not born again until I had an experience with Jesus Christ on my third escape from prison. Prior to that time, I did not understand the Bible. I thought it was a fairytale book somebody wrote trying to make me be good. I didn't really believe in God, Heaven or Hell.

I laughed, mocked and made fun of Christians. I committed all the sins I could find because I didn't want to waste any of them. I robbed, cheated, lied, stole and broke all the ten commandments daily - if I could get to them without passing out. The Apostle Paul said he was chiefest among sinners so I was chief! My how I sinned, going to Hell, because I didn't know I was on my way to the lake of fire. Many people today believe you can continually do those type things and still go to Heaven. You can if you repent and be born again.

What It Means To Be Born Again

All chief sinners know the very second they are born again. There is an instant experience with the Spirit of God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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WORD & Spirit

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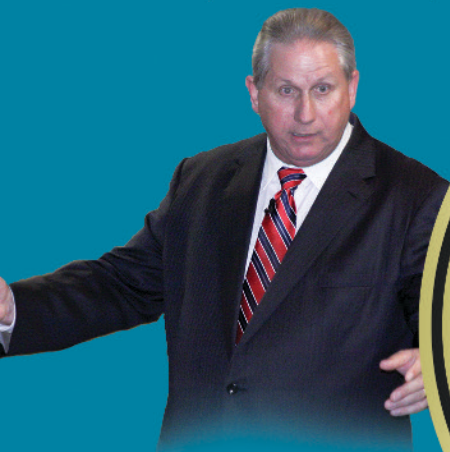
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I was driving down the road the first week of May 1982, in Galveston, Texas. I was on my third escape from prison for armed robbery, among other crimes.

About a week or so prior to this, I had a spiritual experience in a drug house in Baytown, TX. I had this overwhelming sense that I was going to be a preacher! It was so

That was in the day that you knew instantly who a preacher was by how they talked, acted and dressed.

real that I told all the drug addicts and they chuckled and laughed out loud. I didn't fit the criteria of a preacher in those days. That was in the day that you knew instantly who a preacher was by how they talked, acted and dressed. It is hard to determine who a preacher is today. Like the word *Christian*, the word *preacher* can be defined by just about any lifestyle.

Even rank sinners, who blatantly disagree with the Bible are now called preachers, if they desire the title. They can live and look like the devil and be a preacher. It seems the church doesn't care and dare not speak out about it. That would be called 'being confrontational' or a 'bigot' by the modern day culture. Most folks don't know what it means to be born again because the church now has some preachers that are not born again.

I was born again in Galveston, while I was driving down the road on my way to commit a crime. I had a momma, daddy and many others praying for me. Suddenly the Spirit of God invaded the van I was driving like a mighty rushing wind! The Glory of God came down on me! I heard the words, "*The devil has laid a trap for you and you are going to wind up dead and in hell if you don't turn your life over to me right now!*" It scared the Hell out of me! I was on my way to commit a crime. Thank God for people praying for me!

I cried out to God because I did not want to go to Hell. (I know a lot of people believe there is no Hell, but they are deceived by the devil). I just knew to receive Jesus as my Lord and I did. Instantly I was gloriously born again! Demons that controlled me left and the weight of all my sins rolled off of me and all things were new.

This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them. (Hebrews 10:16)

The law of God was immediately written in my human spirit. I instantly knew what was right and wrong, and good and evil. I knew what sin was and I knew God did not approve of it. No one had to tell me.

I know, many say there are no rules to keep today. To say there are no guidelines the Christian must keep today is a bunch of bunk, junk and hogwash!

Natural Laws

In the natural world, you keep many laws everyday to keep from being arrested and placed in jail hell. If you don't believe it, kick somebody's door down, slap someone as hard as you can, rob a bank, steal a car, run your car through the police station door as fast as you can, or whatever law you can think of to break and see what happens! I am joking, don't do it!

The police will arrest you in a New York second if you break any law and place you in jail hell. They say you are innocent until proven guilty - then why arrest you if you're innocent? Because they believe you are guilty! I don't care what they tell you. My past career was being arrested for breaking the law.

Once you are arrested, there are a few court hearings to confirm your conviction. Then you are placed in prison hell or condemned to death based on how serious the law you broke was. Yes, the courts will kill you if you break a law that requires the death sentence. I have had good friends that were electrocuted and killed for breaking the law of the land.

This punishment, for breaking the law, was carried out by human beings just like you and me. Have you ever been on jury duty and voted someone guilty of a crime?

If you did vote to convict someone guilty of a crime and to be sentenced, you did it based on the fact that they broke the law of the land. What! The Law! I thought you didn't believe in laws people had to keep, especially Christians?

Now you say there are no Biblical, Godly laws that God requires us to keep? If there aren't - we can kill, steal, rob, cheat, lie, commit adultery, fornication, laugh at God and tell Him to go to Hell, etc and still go to Heaven. That is Biblical insanity! You know Christians are not to do those things! Don't you? You better! Thank you kindly.

Biblical Law

No you don't keep the ceremonially law of the Old Testament or ten commandments to become born again. You confess Jesus as your Lord with your mouth and believe in your heart that He is risen from the dead and you are born again.

Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 5:17-19)

Jesus made it plain in the above verses. If anyone breaks the least of these commandments or teach men so, they will be least in the kingdom. He did not come to destroy the law, but to fulfill it.

He came to obey and fulfill the law. He did that. We could not fulfill the law until we were born again. That is the reason Jesus sent the Holy Ghost. We are born again and then we are in Christ and He is in us. If He keeps the law, you will keep the law also. Oh you think Jesus breaks the law of God all the time and it is alright if you do too? If you can't fulfill the law when you are born again, He wasted His time sending the Holy Ghost to live in you. You are a new creature in Christ when you are born again. Old ways pass away and all things become new!

Master, which is the great commandment in the law? -- Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang (sum up) all the law and the prophets. (Matthew 22:36-40)

Jesus gave us the New Testament definition of the law. He did not tell us not to keep it.

The Church

The Christian Church is a body of people who are born again and they are disciples of Jesus Christ. They have forsaken the ungodly lifestyle of the world, or anything associated with it. They obey the law God ordained because it is written in their spirit by the Holy Ghost. They were called Christians first in Antioch because they were disciples (disciplined followers) of Jesus Christ.

If you desire to join the church, but live like the devil, and want no rules that govern your life, you are not a disciple of Jesus Christ. You are an imposter and you are not born again. You may have mentally agreed that Jesus is the Son of God, but you are not born again. There are Biblical guidelines that you have an *overwhelming desire* to obey if you are a born again Christian. Those guidelines are the law of God that are written in your spirit when you are born again.

The very second I was born again I had an overwhelming desire to obey God and please Him in every area of my life. Everyone who is born again has the same experience. You do not want to commit sin anymore or break God's law, much less the laws of our land.

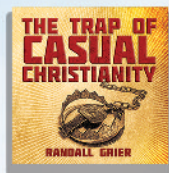
Love Of The World

Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever. (1Jn. 2:15-17)

When you are born again, you do not love the world or the things in it. That is evidence that you are a disciple of Jesus Christ, which is a Christian. *"If any man love the world the love of the Father is not in him."*

Those scriptures make it plain and simple. They are not preached much in the modern day church, but it is still the Bible. Many who call themselves Christians love the world and the things in it. How do we know? They bring the things of the world into many churches and call them Godly. Most are so unfamiliar with the Heavenly Father they don't know how to live and act like a Christian. They can't even fool folks into believing they are a Christian anymore. Therefore, they live, talk, act, dress and participate in the things of the world and call it Christianity. It is not Christianity - it is a false, human religion made up by man.

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