

~CHRISTIAN (923)

· What It Means To Be A Christian

· Non-Christian Testimony

- The Latinized Greek term *Khri-sti-a-nos'*, found only three times in the Christian Greek Scriptures, designates followers of Christ Jesus, the exponents of Christianity.
- And, after he found him, he brought him to Antioch. It thus came about that for a whole year they gathered together with them in the congregation and taught quite a crowd, and it was first in Antioch that the disciples were by divine providence called **Christians**. (Acts of Apostles 11:26)
- But Agrippa said to Paul; In a short time you would persuade me to become a **Christian**. (Acts of Apostles 26:28)
- But if he suffers as a **Christian**, let him not feel shame, but let him keep on glorifying God in this name. (1 Peter 4:16)
- It was first in Antioch or Syria, that the disciples were by divine providence called **Christians**.
- And, after he found him, he brought him to Antioch. It thus came about that for a whole year they gathered together with them in the congregation and taught quite a crowd, and it was first in Antioch that the disciples were by divine providence called **Christians**. (Acts of Apostles 11:26)
- It is possible, then, that this name was used as early as the year **44 C.E.** when the events surrounding this text occurred, although the grammatical structure of this phrase does not necessarily make it so, some think it was a little later.
- At any rate, by about **58 C.E.**, in the city of Caesarea, the term was well known and used even by public officials, for at that time King Herod Agrippa II said to Paul;
- But Agrippa said to Paul; In a short time you would persuade me to become a **Christian**. (Acts of Apostles 26:28)

- **Bible writers in addressing fellow believers or describing followers of Christ used expressions such as believers in the Lord, brothers and disciples**
- **More than that, believers in the Lord kept on being added, multitudes both of men and of women. (Acts of Apostles 5:14)**
- **So, brothers, search out for yourselves seven certified men from among you, full of spirit and wisdom, that we may appoint them over this necessary business. (Acts of Apostles 6:3)**
- **Now, therefore, why are you making a test of God by imposing upon the neck of the disciples a yoke that neither our forefathers nor we were capable of bearing? (Acts of Apostles 15:10)**
- **Chosen ones and faithful ones.**
- **Accordingly, as God's **chosen ones**, holy and loved, clothe yourselves with the tender affections of compassion, kindness, lowliness of mind, mildness, and long-suffering. (Colossians 3:12)**
- **Let no man ever look down on your youth. On the contrary, become an example to the **faithful ones** in speaking, in conduct, in love, in faith, in chasteness. (1 Timothy 4:12)**
- **Slaves to God and slaves of Christ Jesus,**
- **However, now, because you were set free from sin but became **slaves to God**, you are having your fruit in the way of holiness, and the end everlasting life. (Romans 6:22)**
- **Paul and Timothy, **slaves of Christ Jesus**, to all the holy ones in union with Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, along with overseers and ministerial servants. (Philippians 1:1)**
- **Holy ones, congregation of God, and those who call upon the Lord.**
- **But Ananias answered; Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how many injurious things he did to your **holy ones** in Jerusalem. (Acts of Apostles 9:13)**
- **Pay attention to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the**

- Holy Spirit has appointed you overseers, to shepherd the **congregation of God**, which he purchased with the blood of his own Son. (**Acts of Apostles 20:28**)
- To the congregation of God that is in Corinth, to you who have been sanctified in union with Christ Jesus, called to be **holy ones**, together with all who everywhere are calling upon the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours. (**1 Corinthians 1:2**)
 - So, flee from the desires incidental to youth, but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace, along with those **who call upon the Lord** out of a clean heart. (**2 Timothy 2:22**)
 - These terms with doctrinal meaning were used primarily as internal congregational designations. To outsiders **Christianity** was referred to as **The Way**.
 - And asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, in order, that he might bring bound to Jerusalem any whom he found who belonged to **The Way**, both men and women. (**Acts of Apostles 9:2**)
 - But when some went on hardening themselves and not believing, speaking injuriously about **The Way** before the multitude, he withdrew from them and separated the disciples from them, daily giving talks in the school auditorium of Tyrannus. (**Acts of Apostles 19:9**)
 - At that particular time there arose no little disturbance concerning **The Way**. (**Acts of Apostles 19:23**)
 - And I persecuted **this Way** to the death, binding and handing over to prisons both men and women. (**Acts of Apostles 22:4**)
 - And opponents called it **the sect of the Nazarenes** or just **this sect**.
 - For we have found this man a pestilent fellow and stirring up seditions among all the Jews throughout the inhabited earth and a spearhead of the **sect of the Nazarenes**. (**Acts of Apostles 24:5**)
 - But we think it proper to hear from you what your thoughts are, for truly as regards **this sect** it is known to us that everywhere it is spoken against. (**Acts of Apostles 28:22**)

- It was first in Syrian Antioch that Christ's followers became known as **Christians**. It is most unlikely that the Jews first styled Jesus followers **Christians**, **Greek**, or **Messianists**, **Hebrew**, for they would not reject Jesus as being the Messiah, or Christ, and then tacitly recognize him as the Anointed One, or Christ, by stamping his followers **Christians**.

- Some think the heathen population may have nicknamed them **Christians** out of jest or scorn, but the Bible shows that it was a God-given name, they were **by divine providence** called **Christians**.

- And, after he found him, he brought him to Antioch. It thus came about that for a whole year they gathered together with them in the congregation and taught quite a crowd, and it was first in Antioch that the disciples **were by divine providence** called **Christians**. (**Acts of Apostles 11:26**)

- The **Greek** verb *khre-ma-ti'zo* in this text is generally rendered simply **were called**. A check of some 50 translations in several modern languages reveals that only the **New World Translation** and **Young's** indicate that God had anything to do with selecting the name **Christian**, **Young's** reads; The disciples also were divinely called first in Antioch **Christians**.

- The **Greek** word *khre-ma-ti'zo* as used in the **Christian Greek Scriptures** is always associated with something supernatural, oracular, or divine.

- **Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible**, in its Greek dictionary (1890, p. 78), defines it as to utter an oracle, i.e. divinely intimate.

- **Edward Robinsons Greek and English Lexicon** (1885, p. 786) gives the meaning: **Spoken in respect to a divine response, oracle, declaration, to give response, to speak as an oracle, to warn from God.**

- **Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament** (1889, p. 671): **to give a divine command or admonition, to teach from heaven, to be divinely commanded, admonished, instructed, to be the mouthpiece of divine revelations, to promulge the commands of God.**

- **Thomas Scott** in his **Explanatory Notes on this text** (1832, Vol. III, p. 419) says; **The word implies that this was done by divine revelation: for it has generally this signification in the New Testament, and is rendered**

warned from God or warned of God, even when there is no word for God in the Greek.

- **Concerning;**
- **And, after he found him, he brought him to Antioch. It thus came about that for a whole year they gathered together with them in the congregation and taught quite a crowd, and it was first in Antioch that the disciples were **by divine providence** called **Christians**. (Acts of Apostles 11:26)**
- **Clarke's Commentary says; The word *khre-ma-ti'sai* in our common text, which we translate were called, signifies in the New Testament, to appoint, warn, or nominate, by Divine direction. In this sense, the word is used;**
- **However, because they were given **divine warning** in a dream not to return to Herod, they withdrew to their country by another way. (Matthew 2:12)**
- **If, therefore, the name was given by **Divine appointment**, it is most likely that Saul and Barnabas were directed to give it, and that, therefore, the name **Christian is from God**.**
- **But hearing that Archelaus ruled as king of Judea instead of his father Herod, he became afraid to depart for there. Moreover, being given divine warning in a dream, he withdrew into the territory of Galilee. (Matthew 2:22)**
- **Furthermore, it had been divinely revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Christ of Yehowah. (Luke 2:26)**
- **They said; Cornelius, an army officer, a man righteous and fearing God and well reported by the whole nation of the Jews, was given **divine instructions** by a holy angel to send for you to come to his house and to hear the things you have to say. (Acts of Apostles 10:22)**
- **So, then, while her husband is living, she would be styled an adulteress if she became another man's. But if her husband dies, she is free from his law, so that she is not an adulteress if she becomes another man's. (Romans 7:3)**

- **But which men are rendering sacred service in a typical representation and a shadow of the heavenly things, just as Moses, when about to make the tent in completion, was given the divine command. For says he; See that you make all things after their pattern that was shown to you in the mountain. (Hebrews 8:5)**
- **So, then, while her husband is living, she would be styled an adulteress if she became another man's. But if her husband dies, she is free from his Law, so that she is not an adulteress if she becomes another man's. (Romans 7:3)**
- **By faith Noah, after being given divine warning of things not yet beheld, showed godly fear and constructed an ark for the saving of his household, and through this faith he condemned the world, and he became an heir of the righteousness that is according to faith. (Hebrews 11:7)**
- **So, then, while her husband is living, she would be styled an adulteress if she became another man's. But if her husband dies, she is free from his law, so that she is not an adulteress if she becomes another man's. (Romans 7:3)**
- **See that you do not beg off from him who is speaking. For if they did not escape who begged off from him who was giving divine warning upon earth, much more shall we not if we turn away from him who speaks from the heavens. (Hebrews 12:25)**
- **Where this Greek verb occurs.**
- **The Scriptures speak of Jesus Christ as the Bridegroom, the Head and Husband of his **anointed** followers.**
- **For I am jealous over you with a godly jealousy, for I personally promised you in marriage to one husband that I might present you as a **chaste virgin to the Christ**. (2 Corinthians 11:2)**
- **Because a husband is head of his wife as the **Christ also is head of the congregation**, he being a savior of this body. (Ephesians 5:23)**
- **Appropriately, then, as a wife is happy to take her husband's name, so this bride class of Christ was pleased to receive a name identifying its members as belonging to him.**

- In this way observers of these **First-Century Christians** readily recognized them not only by their activity, but also by their name as altogether different from the practitioners of Judaism, here was a growing association where there was neither Jew nor Greek, but all were one under their Head and Leader, Jesus Christ.
- You are all, in fact, sons of God through your faith in Christ Jesus. **(Galatians 3:26)**
- For all of you who were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. **(Galatians 3:27)**
- There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor freeman, there is neither male nor female, for you are all one person in union with Christ Jesus. **(Galatians 3:28)**
- Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, foreigner, Scythian, slave, freeman, but Christ is all things and in all. **(Colossians 3:11)**

·· **What It Means To Be A Christian**

- Jesus extended the invitation to be his follower, saying; **If anyone wants to come after me, let him disown himself and pick up his torture stake and continually follow me.**
- Then Jesus said to his disciples; **If anyone wants to come after me, let him disown himself and pick up his torture stake and continually follow me. (Matthew 16:24)**
- Those who are true **Christians** have full faith that Jesus Christ is God's specially **Anointed One** and only-begotten Son, the Promised Seed who sacrificed his human life as a ransom, was resurrected and exalted to the right hand of Yehowah, and received authority to subdue his enemies and vindicate Yehowah's name.
- Just as the Son of man came, not to be ministered to, but to minister and to give his soul a ransom in exchange for many. **(Matthew 20:28)**
- And he said to them; **In this way it is written that the Christ would suffer and rise from among the dead on the third day. (Luke 24:46)**

- For God loved the world so much that he gave his only-begotten Son, in order, that everyone exercising faith in him might not be destroyed but have everlasting life. (**John 3:16**)
- Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. It says, not; And to seeds. As in the case of many such, but as in the case of one; And to your seed, who is Christ. (**Galatians 3:16**)
- For this very reason also God exalted him to a superior position and kindly gave him the name that is above every other name. (**Philippians 2:9**)
- So that in the name of Jesus every knee should bend of those in heaven and those on earth and those under the ground. (**Philippians 2:10**)
- And every tongue should openly acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father. (**Philippians 2:11**)
- But this man offered one sacrifice for sins perpetually and sat down at the right hand of God. (**Hebrews 10:12**)
- From then on awaiting until his enemies should be placed as a stool for his feet. (**Hebrews 10:13**)
- **Christians** view the Bible as the inspired Word of God, absolute truth, beneficial for teaching and disciplining mankind.
- Sanctify them by means of the truth. Your word is truth. (**John 17:17**)
- All Scripture is inspired of God and beneficial for teaching, for reproving, for setting things straight, for disciplining in righteousness. (**2 Timothy 3:16**)
- For prophecy was at no time brought by man's will, but men spoke from God as they were borne along by Holy Spirit. (**2 Peter 1:21**)
- More is required of true **Christians** than a mere confession of faith. It is necessary that belief be demonstrated by works.
- For with the heart one exercises faith for righteousness, but with

- the mouth one makes public declaration for salvation. (**Romans 10:10**)
- Thus, too, faith, if it does not have works, is dead in itself. (**James 2:17**)
 - Indeed, as the body without spirit is dead, so also **faith without works is dead**. (**James 2:26**)
 - **Born as sinners, those who become Christians repent, turn around, dedicate their lives to Yehowah, to worship and serve him, and then submit to water baptism.**
 - Go therefore and make disciples of people of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. (**Matthew 28:19**)
 - Peter said to them; Repent, and let each one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the free gift of the Holy Spirit. (**Acts of Apostles 2:38**)
 - Repent, therefore, and turn around so as to get your sins blotted out, that seasons of refreshing may come from the person of Yehowah (**Acts of Apostles 3:19**)
 - **They must keep themselves clean from fornication, from idolatry, and from eating blood.**
 - But to write them to **abstain from things polluted by idols and from fornication and from what is strangled and from blood**. (**Acts of Apostles 15:20**)
 - To keep abstaining from things sacrificed to idols and from blood and from things strangled and from fornication. If you carefully keep yourselves from these things, you will prosper. Good health to you! (**Acts of Apostles 15:29**)
 - **They strip off old personalities with their fits of anger, obscene talk, lying, stealing, drunkenness, and things like these, and they bring their lives into accord with Bible principles.**
 - Now the works of the flesh are manifest, and they are fornication, uncleanness, loose conduct. (**Galatians 5:19**)

- **Idolatry, practice of spiritism, enmities, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, contentions, divisions, sects. ([Galatians 5:20](#))**
- **Envy, drunken bouts, revelries, and things like these. As to these things I am forewarning you, the same way as I did forewarn you, that those who practice such things will not inherit God's kingdom. ([Galatians 5:21](#))**
- **What! Do you not know that unrighteous persons will not inherit God's kingdom? Do not be misled. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men kept for unnatural purposes, nor men who lie with men. ([1 Corinthians 6:9](#))**
- **Nor thieves, nor greedy persons, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit God's kingdom. ([1 Corinthians 6:10](#))**
- **And yet that is what some of you were. But you have been washed clean, but you have been sanctified, but you have been declared righteous in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ and with the spirit of our God. ([1 Corinthians 6:11](#))**
- **This, therefore, I say and bear witness to in the Lord, that you no longer go on walking just as the nations also walk in the unprofitableness of their minds. ([Ephesians 4:17](#))**
- **While they are in darkness mentally, and alienated from the life that belongs to God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the insensibility of their hearts. ([Ephesians 4:18](#))**
- **Having come to be past all moral sense, they gave themselves over to loose conduct to work uncleanness of every sort with greediness. ([Ephesians 4:19](#))**
- **But you did not learn the Christ to be so. ([Ephesians 4:20](#))**
- **Provided, indeed, that you heard him and were taught by means of him, just as truth is in Jesus. ([Ephesians 4:21](#))**
- **That you should put away the old personality which conforms to your former course of conduct and which is being corrupted according to his deceptive desires. ([Ephesians 4:22](#))**
- **But that you should be made new in the force actuating your mind. ([Ephesians 4:23](#))**

- **And should put on the new personality which was created according to God's will in true righteousness and loyalty. (Ephesians 4:24)**
- **Deaden, therefore, your body members that are upon the earth as respects fornication, uncleanness, sexual appetite, hurtful desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. (Colossians 3:5)**
- **On account of those things the wrath of God is coming. (Colossians 3:6)**
- **In those very things you, too, once walked when you used to live in them. (Colossians 3:7)**
- **But now really put them all away from you, wrath, anger, badness, abusive speech, and obscene talk out of your mouth. (Colossians 3:8)**
- **Do not be lying to one another. Strip off the old personality with its practices. (Colossians 3:9)**
- **And clothe yourselves with the new personality, which through accurate knowledge is being made new according to the image of the One who created it. (Colossians 3:10)**
- **Let none of you, wrote Peter to **Christians**, suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a busybody in other peoples matters.**
- **However, let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a busybody in other peoples matters. (1 Peter 4:15)**
- ****Christians** are to be kind and considerate, mild-tempered and long-suffering, lovingly exercising self-control.**
- **On the other hand, the fruitage of the spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faith. (Galatians 5:22)**
- **Mildness, self-control. Against such things there is no Law. (Galatians 5:23)**
- **Accordingly, as God's chosen ones, holy and loved, clothe yourselves with the tender affections of compassion, kindness,**

lowliness of mind, mildness, and long-suffering. (**Colossians 3:12**)

- Continue putting up with one another and forgiving one another freely if anyone has a cause for complaint against another. Even as Yehowah freely forgave you, so do you also. (**Colossians 3:13**)
- But, besides all these things, clothe yourselves with love, for it is a perfect bond of union. (**Colossians 3:14**)
- They provide and care for their own and love their neighbors as themselves.
- Certainly if anyone does not provide for those who are his own, and especially for those who are members of his household, he has disowned the faith and is worse than a person without faith. (**1 Timothy 5:8**)
- Really, then, as long as we have time favorable for it, let us work what is good toward all, but especially toward those related to us in the faith. (**Galatians 6:10**)
- Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law? (**Matthew 22:36**)
- He said to him; You must love Yehowah your God with your whole heart and with your whole soul and with your whole mind. (**Matthew 22:37**)
- This is the greatest and first commandment. (**Matthew 22:38**)
- The second, like it, is this: You must love your neighbor as yourself. (**Matthew 22:39**)
- On these two commandments the whole Law hangs, and the Prophets. (**Matthew 22:40**)
- Do not you people be owing anybody a single thing, except to love one another, for he that loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. (**Romans 13:8**)
- For the Law code; You must not commit adultery. You must not murder. You must not steal. You must not covet, and whatever other commandment there is, is summed up in this word,

namely. You must love your neighbor as yourself. (**Romans 13:9**)

- Love does not work evil to ones neighbor. Therefore love is the Law's fulfillment. (**Romans 13:10**)
- The main identifying quality by which true **Christians** are recognized is the outstanding love they have toward one another. By this, Jesus said; **All will know that you are my disciples, if you have love among yourselves.**
- I am giving you a new commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you, that you also love one another. (**John 13:34**)
- By this all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love among yourselves. (**John 13:35**)
- This is my commandment, that you love one another just as I have loved you. (**John 15:12**)
- No one has love greater than this, that someone should surrender his soul in behalf of his friends. (**John 15:13**)
- True **Christians** imitate Jesus example as the **Great Teacher and Faithful Witness of Yehowah.**
- Therefore Pilate said to him; Well, then, are you a king? Jesus answered; You yourself are saying that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone that is on the side of the truth listens to my voice. (**John 18:37**)
- And from Jesus Christ, the Faithful Witness, The firstborn from the dead, and The Ruler of the kings of the earth. To him that loves us and that loosed us from our sins by means of his own blood. (**Revelation 1:5**)
- And to the angel of the congregation in Laodicea write. These are the things that the Amen says, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation by God. (**Revelation 3:14**)
- Go, make disciples of people of all the nations, is their Leaders command.

- Go therefore and make disciples of people of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. (**Matthew 28:19**)
- Teaching them to observe all the things I have commanded you. And, look! I am with you all the days until the conclusion of the system of things. (**Matthew 28:20**)
- In carrying it out, **Christians witness publicly and from house to house**, urging people everywhere to flee out of Babylon the Great and put their hope and confidence in God's Kingdom.
- And every day in the temple and from house to house they continued without letup teaching and declaring the Good News about the Christ, Jesus. (**Acts of Apostles 5:42**)
- While I did not hold back from telling you any of the things that were profitable nor from teaching you publicly and from house to house. (**Acts of Apostles 20:20**)
- But I thoroughly bore witness both to Jews and to Greeks about repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus. (**Acts of Apostles 20:21**)
- And he cried out with a strong voice, saying; She has fallen! Babylon the Great has fallen, and she has become a dwelling place of demons and a lurking place of every unclean exhalation and a lurking place of every unclean and hated bird! (**Revelation 18:2**)
- For because of the wine of the anger of her fornication all the nations have fallen victim, and the kings of the earth committed fornication with her, and the traveling merchants of the earth became rich due to the power of her shameless luxury. (**Revelation 18:3**)
- And I heard another voice out of heaven say; Get out of her, my people, if you do not want to share with her in her sins, and if you do not want to receive part of her plagues. (**Revelation 18:4**)
- This is really Good News, but proclaiming such a message brings upon **Christians** great persecution and suffering, even as was experienced by Jesus Christ. His followers are not above him, it is enough if they are like him.

- **A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a slave above his lord. (Matthew 10:24)**
- **It is enough for the disciple to become as his teacher, and the slave as his lord. If people have called the householder Beelzebub, how much more will they call those of his household so? (Matthew 10:25)**
- **From that time forward Jesus Christ commenced showing his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the older men and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised up. (Matthew 16:21)**
- **Then people will deliver you up to tribulation and will kill you, and you will be objects of hatred by all the nations on account of my name. (Matthew 24:9)**
- **Bear in mind the word I said to you, a slave is not greater than his master. If they have persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they have observed my word, they will observe yours also. (John 15:20)**
- **In fact, all those desiring to live with godly devotion in association with Christ Jesus will also be persecuted. (2 Timothy 3:12)**
- **In fact, to this course you were called, because even Christ suffered for you, leaving you a model for you to follow his steps closely. (1 Peter 2:21)**
- **If one suffers as a **Christian**, let him not feel shame, but let him keep on glorifying God in this name, counseled Peter.**
- **But if he suffers as a **Christian**, let him not feel shame, but let him keep on glorifying God in this name. (1 Peter 4:16)**
- ****Christians** render to Caesar what belongs to the superior authorities of this world honor, respect, tax but at the same time they remain separate from this world's affairs**
- **They said; Caesars. Then he said to them; Pay back, therefore, Caesars things to Caesar, but God's things to God. (Matthew 22:21)**

- **They are no part of the world, just as I am no part of the world. (John 17:16)**
- **Let every soul be in subjection to the superior authorities, for there is no authority except by God. The existing authorities stand placed in their relative positions by God. (Romans 13:1)**
- **Therefore he who opposes the authority has taken a stand against the arrangement of God. Those who have taken a stand against it will receive judgment to themselves. (Romans 13:2)**
- **For those ruling are an object of fear, not to the good deed, but to the bad. Do you, then, want to have no fear of the authority? Keep doing good, and you will have praise from it. (Romans 13:3)**
- **For it is God's minister to you for your good. But if you are doing what is bad, be in fear. For it is not without purpose that it bears the sword. For it is God's minister, an avenger to express wrath upon the one practicing what is bad. (Romans 13:4)**
- **There is therefore compelling reason for you people to be in subjection, not only on account of that wrath but also on account of your conscience. (Romans 13:5)**
- **For that is why you are also paying taxes. For they are God's public servants constantly serving this very purpose. (Romans 13:6)**
- **Render to all their dues, to him who calls for the tax, the thereafter. To him who calls for the tribute, the tribute. To him who calls for fear, such fear. To him who calls for honor, such honor. (Romans 13:7)**
- **For this the world hates them.**
- **If you were part of the world, the world would be fond of what is its own. Now because you are no part of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, on this account the world hates you. (John 15:19)**
- **Jesus answered; My kingdom is no part of this world. If my kingdom were part of this world, my attendants would have fought that I should not be delivered up to the Jews. But, as it is,**

my kingdom is not from this source. (**John 18:36**)

- For the time that has passed by is sufficient for you to have worked out the will of the nations when you proceeded in deeds of loose conduct, lusts, excesses with wine, revelries, drinking matches, and illegal idolatries. (**1 Peter 4:3**)
- Because you do not continue running with them in this course to the same low sink of debauchery, they are puzzled and go on speaking abusively of you. (**1 Peter 4:4**)
- Adulteresses, do you not know that the friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever, therefore, wants to be a friend of the world is constituting himself an enemy of God. (**James 4:4**)
- Do not be loving either the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. (**1 John 2:15**)
- Because everything in the world, the desire of the flesh and the desire of the eyes and the showy display of one's means of life, does not originate with the Father, but originates with the world. (**1 John 2:16**)
- Furthermore, the world is passing away and so is its desire, but he that does the will of God remains forever. (**1 John 2:17**)
- It is understandable why people with such high principles of morality and integrity, accompanied by an electrifying message delivered with fiery zeal and outspokenness, quickly gained attention in the **First Century**.
- Paul's missionary travels, for example, were like a spreading prairie fire that set city after city ablaze Antioch in Pisidia, Iconium, Lystra, Derbe, and Perga on one trip, Philippi, Thessalonica, Beroea, Athens, and Corinth on another causing people to stop, think, and take their stand, either accepting or rejecting the Good News of God's Kingdom.
- Furthermore, the world is passing away and so is its desire, but he that does the will of God remains forever. (**1 John 2:17**)
- Therefore we put out to sea from Troas and came with a straight run to Samothrace, but on the following day to Neapolis. (**Acts of**

Apostles 16:11)

- So they all laid hold of Sosthenes the presiding officer of the synagogue and went to beating him in front of the judgment seat. But Gallio would not concern himself at all with these things. (**Acts of Apostles 18:17**)
- Many thousands abandoned their false religious organizations, wholeheartedly embraced **Christianity**, and zealously took up the preaching activity in imitation of Christ Jesus and the apostles. This, in turn, made them objects of hatred and persecution, which was instigated chiefly by the false religious leaders and misinformed political rulers.
- Their leader Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, had been put to death on the charge of sedition, now peace-loving **Christians** were accused of disturbing our city, overturning the inhabited earth, and being a people that everywhere is spoken against.
- And, leading them up to the civil magistrates, they said; These men are disturbing our city very much, they being Jews. (**Acts of Apostles 16:20**)
- When they did not find them they dragged Jason and certain brothers to the city rulers, crying out; These men that have overturned the inhabited earth are present here also. (**Acts of Apostles 17:6**)
- But we think it proper to hear from you what your thoughts are, for truly as regards this sect it is known to us that everywhere it is spoken against. (**Acts of Apostles 28:22**)
- By the time Peter wrote his first letter, **circa 62-64 C.E.**, it seems that the activity of **Christians** was well known in places such as Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia.
- Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the temporary residents scattered about in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, to the ones chosen (**1 Peter 1:1**)

· Non-Christian Testimony

- Secular writers of the **First Two Centuries C.E.** also acknowledged the presence and influence of early **Christians** in their pagan world. For

example, Tacitus, a Roman historian born about 55 C.E, tells of the rumor charging that Nero was the one responsible for burning Rome, 64 C.E, and then says:

- Therefore, to scotch the rumor, Nero substituted as culprits, and punished with the utmost refinements of cruelty, a class of men, loathed for their vices, as the Romans viewed matters, whom the crowd styled **Christians**. First, then, the confessed members of the sect were arrested, next, on their disclosures, vast numbers were convicted, not so much on the count of arson as for hatred of the human race.
- And derision accompanied their end: they were covered with wild beasts skins and torn to death by dogs, or they were fastened on crosses, and, when daylight failed were burned to serve as lamps by night. [The Annals, XV, XLIV]
- Suetonius, another Roman historian, born toward the end of the **First Century C.E**, relates events that occurred during Nero's reign, saying; Punishment was inflicted on the **Christians**, a class of men given to a new and mischievous superstition. [The Lives of the Caesars (Nero, XVI, 2)]
- Flavius Josephus, in his **Jewish Antiquities (XVIII, 64 [iii, 3])**, mentions certain events in the life of Jesus, adding: And the tribe of the **Christians**, so called after him, has still to this day about 93 C.E, not disappeared.
- Pliny the Younger, governor of Bithynia in **111 or 112 C.E**, faced with the Christian problem, wrote to Emperor Trajan, outlining the methods he was using and asking for advice. I have asked them in person if they are **Christians**, wrote Pliny.
- If they admitted it, they were punished. However, others denied that they were or ever had been **Christians**. Put to the test, not only did these offer up pagan sacrifices but they even reviled the name of Christ: none of which things, I understand, any genuine **Christian** can be induced to do.
- In answering this letter, Trajan commended Pliny on the way he had handled the matter: You have followed the right course of procedure, in your examination of the cases of persons charged with being **Christians**. [The Letters of Pliny, X, XCVI, 3,5, XCVII, 1]

- **First-century Christianity** had no temples, built no altars, used no crucifixes, and sponsored no garbed and betitled ecclesiastics. **Early Christians celebrated no state holidays and refused all military service.**

- A careful review of all the information available goes to show that, until the time of Marcus Aurelius, who ruled **161-180 C.E**, no **Christian** became a soldier, and no soldier, after becoming a **Christian**, remained in military service. [The Rise of Christianity, by E. Barnes, 1947, p. 333]

- Nevertheless, as indicated in Pliny's letter, not all who bore the name **Christian** were uncompromisingly such when put to the test. Just as had been foretold, the spirit of apostasy was already at work before the apostles fell asleep.

- I know that after my going away oppressive wolves will enter in among you and will not treat the flock with tenderness. (**Acts of Apostles 20:29**)

- And from among you yourselves men will rise and speak twisted things to draw away the disciples after themselves. (**Acts of Apostles 20:30**)

- However, there also came to be false prophets among the people, as there will also be false teachers among you. These very ones will quietly bring in destructive sects and will disown even the owner that bought them, bringing speedy destruction upon themselves. (**2 Peter 2:1**)

- Furthermore, many will follow their acts of loose conduct, and on account of these the way of the truth will be spoken of abusively. (**2 Peter 2:2**)

- Also, with covetousness they will exploit you with counterfeit words. But as for them, the judgment from of old is not moving slowly, and the destruction of them is not slumbering. (**2 Peter 2:3**)

- Young children, it is the last hour, and, just as you have heard that antichrist is coming, even now there have come to be many antichrists, from which fact we gain the knowledge that it is the last hour. (**1 John 2:18**)

- They went out from us, but they were not of our sort. For if they

had been of our sort, they would have remained with us. But they went out that it might be shown up that not all are of our sort. (1 John 2:19)

- Who is the liar if it is not the one that denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one that denies the Father and the Son. (1 John 2:22)
- Within a period of less than 300 years, the wheat field of **Christianity** had been overrun with the weeds of apostate antichrists to the point where wicked Constantine the Great, himself incriminated in the murder of no less than seven close friends and relatives, figured in events that led to the development of a state religion disguised as **Christianity**.