

to step out while we take over? Usually it's because we disobey a clear biblical teaching. For example, if we neglect to "pray without ceasing" (1 Th. 5:17), we become self-sufficient. If we stop doing everything "heartily, as to the Lord" (Col. 3:23), we start living for ourselves.

Following Jesus is a full time commitment. Don't fall into the trap of thinking you can be a part time Christian. --JDB

*In all the little things of life,
Your will, Lord, may I see;
In little and in great alike,
Help me to faithful be! --Anon.*

The Christian life has no time-outs.



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Part time Christians?



Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus. -- Colossians 3:17

The host of a radio program told about a man who described his religious views by saying, "I'm a Christian on Christmas and Easter." He seemed to

think Christianity was a part time proposition.

Even if we don't deliberately relegate our faith to just 2 days each year, many of us engage in a form of part time Christianity. We do that when we pick the time and place to practice our faith instead of being consistent every moment of every day.

When we choose to sin or neglect our relationship with Christ or let the world squeeze us into its mould, we become part time Christians. Jesus told us to take up our cross daily and follow Him (Lk. 9:23). He didn't suffer an unbearably cruel death on the cross so that we could pick and choose when we want to follow Him.

Why do we sometimes turn our back on our Saviour and in effect tell Him

Baptismal Service

What Does it Mean to Follow?



(Mark 9:5) "Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here...";"

(John 15:16) ""You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you"

(Matthew 16:24) "... **"If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me."**

We can highlight 4 aspects of following Christ:

1. _____ to Christ,

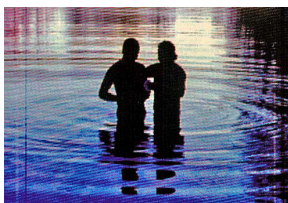
(Matthew 11:28-30) ""Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. {29} "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. {30} "For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.""

(Isaiah 55:1-2) ""Ho! Everyone who thirsts, Come to the waters; And you who have no money, Come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk Without money and without price. {2} Why do you spend money for what is not bread, And your wages for what does not satisfy? .."

(John 7:37) "On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink."

(Revelation 22:17) "... And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely."

2. _____ your faith in Baptism, Acts 2:38,41, 8:36-39, 8:12, 9:18



(Matthew 28:18-20) "... "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. {19} "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, {20} "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen."

(Romans 6:3-5) "Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? {4}

Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. {5} For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection,"

(2 Corinthians 5:17) "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."

3. Live in _____,

(John 10:27) ""My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me."

(Psalms 23:3) "He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's



sake."

(Hebrews 4:15) "For we ... have a High Priest who ... was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin."

(Hebrews 7:26) "For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens;"

(Ephesians 1:4) "just as He chose us in Him ..., that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,"

(1 Peter 1:15-16) "but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, {16} because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy.""

(Philippians 4:8) "Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, ... noble, .. just, ... pure, ... lovely, ... of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy; meditate on these things."

(Mark 10:19-21) ""You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery,' 'Do not murder,' 'Do not steal,' 'Do not bear false witness,' 'Do not defraud,' 'Honor your father and your mother.'" {20} And he answered and said to Him, "Teacher, all these things I have kept from my youth." {21} Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me.""

(Romans 1:28) "... they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, ..;" ...{32} "who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them."

(2 Corinthians 10:5) "... bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,"

(1 John 2:15) "Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him."

(Philippians 1:10-11) "that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, {11} being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God."

4. _____ faithfully,

(Matthew 4:19) "... "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.""

(Matthew 9:9) "As Jesus passed on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, "Follow Me." So he arose and followed Him."

(Luke 9:59-62) "Then He said to another, "Follow Me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." {60} Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and preach the kingdom of God." {61} And another also said, "Lord, I will follow You, but let me first go and bid them farewell who are at my house." {62} But Jesus said to him, "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.""

(John 12:26) ""If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. ..."

(Luke 9:23-26) "Then He said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. {24} "For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it. {25} "For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost? {26} "For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in His own glory, and in His Father's, and of the holy angels."

