

Almost Persuaded.

Acts 26v1-29

LUKE RECORDS THE TERM 'a christian'.

Used frequently today, very frequently. Used too often? Only three times in all the bible!

Acts 26v28; 11v26; 1 Peter 4v16

What makes a person a Christian. Some will think:

- (a) If you are attending/part of a Christian Church it makes you a Christian. BUT Judas – John 6v70-71. One of the twelve!
- (b) Partaking of the Christian ordinance surely makes you a Christian. BUT Acts 8v13, 20-21. Simon had 'neither part nor portion in this matter' – although baptised by an apostle!
- (c) Living to Christian standards as others have. BUT John 3v1, Nicodemus; Phil. 3v6f Saul of Tarsus.

Paul gives his testimony – how he met Jesus on the Damascus Road. He had a personal encounter with Christ! This is what made him a Christian! John 1v12-13.

Acts 9v1f - If he, Paul found any "belonging to the way". Christianity is described as "the way". Christians are those of the way Acts 19:9,23; Acts 22:4; Acts 24:14,22. See Jesus' words Jn. 14:6; Acts 5:20. See Acts 18:25; Acts 16:7. Christian claims that theirs was "the way" of God and salvation lead to the absolute use of the term "the way". The Christian is one who knows that Jesus is THE WAY TO GOD.

See also what Luke records of Jesus words to Paul, v13-18 – all the gentiles will become Christians as he did = 'by faith in Christ! Trusting his finished work.

AGRIPPA EXPRESSES THE TESTIMONY 'almost'

Some see as a sarcastic remark! 'Do you think that with just a little persuasion...' But shows that he was challenged. YOU been challenged? Are you sure that you are a Christian? Do you know Jesus? Have you received forgiveness? You have sins! Have they been dealt with? Are you going to your inheritance in heaven?

If you know you need to be saved are you almost persuaded?

PAUL SEES THE TRAGEDY 'almost and altogether'. You need to be not almost but altogether!

Joshua 20 Cities of refuge – well spaced through the land = salvation always near for the manslayer. Phil. 4v5 'the Lord is at hand'. Rom. 10v6-10.

You could kiss the door to heaven and end in hell.

Paul became altogether persuaded. Acts 9 records the moment he met Christ! Then went on to be baptised! See Acts 9v13-19. 'He was baptised'. Romans 6v1-4 a picture of resurrection. The beginning of a whole new life when you trust Christ. The Acts shows that Christians got baptised, it was believer's baptism, not child baptism, 8v12 'when they believed they were baptised both men and women.' Acts 8v36-40. Have you believed?