

What Name Shall We Wear?

(Acts 11:19-26)

Introduction:

1. According to Acts 2:47, the Lord adds those who are saved to His church.
2. In addition to being added to the Lord's church, those who are saved are entitled to wear a very special name.
3. In our lesson we are studying passages that answer the question: "what name shall we wear?"
4. The first point we need to make is that . . .

Discussion:

- I. **"CHRISTIAN" IS THE NAME THAT GOD HAS AUTHORIZED HIS CHILDREN TO WEAR**
 - A. This name had been in God's mind a long time before He gave it.
 1. About 700 BC, God revealed through Isaiah that a time would come when His people would be called by a new name.
 - a. (Isaiah 65:15) God would *"call His servants by another name."*
 - 1) Under the old covenant, God's people were called by the name of "Israel" [children of Israel, Israelites].
 - 2) However, a time would come when God would call His people by a name other than "Israel."
 - b. (Isaiah 56:5) God said that He would give His people:
 - 1) *"a name better than of sons and of daughters"*
 - 2) *"an everlasting name, that shall not be cut off."*
 - c. We learn from Isaiah 62:1-2 when God would give this new name to His people – 2 special events would occur.
 - 1) (vs.1) Righteousness and salvation would go forth from Jerusalem.
 - 2) (vs.2) The Gentiles would see God's righteousness.
 - 3) Following these special events, God would call His people by a new name.
 2. Have these prophecies been fulfilled?
 - a. (Acts 8:1-4) Righteousness and salvation were going forth from Jerusalem.
 - b. The Gospel was taken to the Gentiles (Acts 10; 11:18).
 - c. When the conditions revealed by Isaiah were met, God gave the name that He wants His people to be called.
 - B. God's people are sometimes referred to as "disciples," "saints," and "brethren;" however, *"Christian"* is the only name that we are authorized to wear.

C. Now, let us determine . . .

II. WHO IS ABLE TO WEAR THIS NAME

A. (Acts 11:26) A Christian is a disciple [a learner or follower].

1. A Christian is a learner or follower of Christ.
2. A Christian must be a disciple, but there is much more to being a Christian than being a disciple.

B. A Christian is one who has been added to the Lord.

1. (vs.24) The disciples in Antioch had been added to the Lord.
2. The Bible teaches us very clearly in Galatians 3:26-27 how to get into Christ.

C. A Christian is a member of the Lord's church.

1. (vs.26) The disciples in Antioch made up the church there.
2. (Acts 2:47) The Lord adds those who are saved to the church (see vs.38).

D. (1 Peter 4:16-17) A Christian is:

1. a member of "*the house of God*" [the church] (vs.17a; 1 Timothy 3:15)
2. one who has obeyed the Gospel (vs.17b).

E. Who is a Christian? A Christian is a disciple of the Lord who has obeyed the Gospel, been saved from his sins, and added to the Lord's church.

Conclusion:

1. Wearing the name "*Christian*" is a special privilege - it honors and glorifies Christ, the founder of Christianity.
2. Have you become a Christian?
3. Don't be like Agrippa who said, "*Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian*" (Acts 26:28).