

What Is A Christian? Acts 11:26

Introduction

- The word “Christian” is greatly misused.
 - For example: In reference to family history, to anyone who believes in God, to anyone who attends a denomination.
- What is the Bible definition?

A Disciple Acts 11:26

- **Disciple (Acts 11:26) – A learner; a pupil (Strong)**
 - *By its very definition, a Christian is a pupil and a learner*
- **Subject matter; curriculum** – The Word of God (Acts 11:19; 13:4-12; 8:35)
 - *No social or recreational attraction*
 - *Paul brought the message of the cross to a dying and lost world*
- **Response** – To turn; to obey (Acts 11:21; 2:38; 3:19)

A Persuaded Person Acts 26:28

- **Reasoning** – Based on the Word of God (Acts 13; 11:19; 17:3-4)
- **Paul** – an example of persuasion
 - *Approved of Stephen’s execution (Acts 7:57; 8:1)*
 - *Spilled venom from his mouth (Acts 9:1)*
 - *Was persuaded with irrefutable evidence (Acts 9:3-5)*
 - *His persuasion became evident in his commission (Acts 26:16ff)*

A Persuaded Person Acts 26:28

- **Paul’s persuasion is evident.**
 - *So zealous/dedicated that he breathed threats toward Christians.*
 - *Later became Paul the persecuted*
 - Persuaded by irrefutable evidence
 - Went from tormentor to tormented
 - His Jewish brethren saw his true persuasion.

A Persecuted Person I Peter 4:16

- **A fact of life for God’s people (II Timothy 3:12)**
 - The church was subjected to it (Acts 8:1)
 - Paul suffered greatly (II Corinthians 11:23-28)
 - OT examples of suffering (Hebrews 11:35ff)
 - Christians are to suffer (Romans 8:14-16)
- **Suffering and persecution has a purpose (I Peter 4:16)**
 - To glorify God “in this name”
 - Glory is brought to God when we suffer for the name of Christ.