

BECOMING A CHRISTIAN

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"THE CHRISTIAN FAITH"

There are only 3 questions to ask about 'Becoming a Christian': Why? When? How?

Why? The short answer is because you need to. There are many people who deny that, of course; for 2 main reasons. First, they think that they are already Christians. They live in a Christian country, they do not belong to some other religion, they do not lie or cheat, they have been christened, they imagine that they were born Christians. All these reasons are sheer nonsense. The fact is that it is more like being married. You are not born married, you become married. Your parents don't arrange it for you (at least not in our culture); you don't become married by acting married; even going through a ceremony doesn't make you married without the union of two persons. The second reason people don't think they need to be Christians is that they think they're o.k. without it. They are what the Bible calls 'trespassers', they are trespassing on God's goodness. Because God has not yet punished them for their disobedience to him and their careless, thankless attitude to him, they think he never will. But this is not true. God will punish them in due course. How then will they stand against God's anger? They will have nowhere to go, nowhere at all. You need to take the step and become a Christian. Not someone else, but you. You are responsible for yourself.

Why? When? Well there's no time like the present. Some people decide to leave it until the 11th hour and die at 10.30. There's a frightening process of spiritual hardening that goes on. As we get older the joints and muscles of our bodies change; so, too, with our spirits. We grow old and careless! deaf to God's voice; unwilling to hear. We think we have got so far without God, we can go on without him. It is a fatal error. Some people think that you need a long time to become a Christian. That is not true. You can become a friend of God tonight, in a few moments, as you listen on the radio, even as you are driving in the car.

Why...? When ...? How...? The short answer is by submitting to God's terms. Up till now you have lived under your own direction, your own boss; you have been proud that you have been in charge. But this pride must go. Instead you must take the step of changing your whole attitude and submitting yourself to God's rule. Second, you must put your faith in Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Jesus came into the world to save us. But in order for us to be saved we have to trust our Saviour. You cannot negotiate a pathway to heaven and eternal life; but you can trust the Lord Jesus.

There you are - the How, When and Why of becoming a Christian. I suppose we could also ask Where? The answer to that is anywhere, now; to become the friend of God; and by giving yourself to him through faith in his Son.

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