

The Christian And Challenges In A Modern World

- The Bible and Modern Attacks Against the Home.
- The Bible and Personal Godliness and Righteousness.
- The Bible and Morality.
- The Bible and Medical Ethics.
- The Bible and the Media.
- The Bible and the Antichrist.
- The Bible and Authority.

Definitions:

- **Challenge:** (Noun), “Anything that claims or commands effort, interest, or feeling,” World Book Dictionary.
- **Challenging:** (Adjective), “That which puts one’s strength, will, statements, findings, or evidence to a test; exacting, demanding,” (*ibid.*).

This Lesson – An Overview Of What Is To Come

- **Intent:** To alert us to many of the dangers and challenges which face us.
- **A Sobering Fact:** We have an Adversary, a formidable foe, I Peter 5:8-9.
- Satan works in many ways; also through people, II Corinthians 11:13-15.
- We must also battle the *unseen*, Eph. 6:12

Many Challenges in the Past

- **Outward Persecution:** Acts 7:54,58; 12:1; 13:50; 14:19; 16:22-23; 21:27; 23:12-13; Rev. 6:9-10.
- **Internal Problems,** Acts 6:1.
- **Division,** I Corinthians 1:10-13.
- **Worldliness,** I Corinthians 5:1.
- **False Doctrine:** Acts 15:1-2; Gal. 1:6; II Timothy 2:17-18; Col. 2:8; Rev. 2:14-15.
- **Discouragement,** Hebrews 12:1-4.

Who is a Christian?

- “Christ – *ian*” (of, belonging to).
- Note I Corinthians 1:11-13. To be “of Paul:”
 - Paul had to be crucified for them
 - They had to be baptized in name of Paul
- Application – to be “Of Christ:”
 - Christ had to be crucified for us.
 - We must be baptized in His name.

Baptism in “the Name of Christ” Demanded that:

- A person be a believer, Mark 16:16.
- A person be a penitent believer, Acts 2:38
- A person confess his faith in Jesus, Acts 8:36-37.
- That one be baptized for the right reason, i.e, “for the remission of sins,” Acts 2:38.

A Christian also is:

- A Disciple, Acts 11:26.
- A member of “the church,” Acts 11:26; Matthew 16:18; I Peter 2:5.
- A member of the church who lives right, Titus 1:11-12.
- A Member of the church who is a regular worshipper of God, Acts 2:41-42; I Peter 2:5.

Challenges Christians Face in our Modern World:

- The Problems of Constant Change.
 - Contrast beginning of the 20th and 21st centuries.
- In the midst of Constant change, we must remember that:
 - God does not change, Mal. 3:6; Num. 23:19.
 - The Bible does not change, Matt. 24:35.
 - The church, as God conceived it, does not change, Hebrews 12:28.

We Face the Changing Standards of Morality.

- Fact: God’s moral requirements have not changed! But we are witnessing changes:
 - In the standards of dress, I Timothy 2:9
 - In the standards of speech, Ephesians 4:29
 - Unmarried, live-together arrangements, I Corinthians 6:18.
- In the midst of this, we must still live Christian lives in a sinful world!

We face a Changing Work Ethic.

- God expects able-bodied people to work! Genesis 2:15; 3:17; 2 Thessalonians 3:10
- But many seem to believe the world owes them a living. Some of this due to:
 - Over-indulgence of parents.
 - Governmental programs
 - Our abused legal system
- However, Ephesians 4:28 still applies!

The Challenge of Family Break Down.

- God expects permanency, Rom. 7:2.
- One cause whereby innocent victim can divorce and remarry, Matthew 19:9.
- However, the divorce rate around 50%!
- Many now marry with no commitment.
- Other marriages involve role reversal, I Corinthians 11:3; Eph. 5:22-23.

Fact: Rapid Changes are taking place!

- These changes force upon us many challenges as Christians – which command effort, interest, and feeling.
- To face these challenges, we must:
 - Be Strong, Ephesians 6:10.
 - Grow in Knowledge, 2 Peter 3:18.
 - Pray, I Thessalonians 5:17.
 - Fight, I Timothy 6:12.

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

- Hear the word, Acts 2:22; 15:7
- Believe, John 8:24; Hebrews 11:6
- Repent, Acts 17:30
- Confess, Acts 8:37
- Be Baptized, Acts 22:16; Galatians 3:27
- Be Faithful, Revelation 2:10