

The Character Of A Christian

Romans 12:9-21

1

CHARACTER

- “The combination of qualities or features that distinguishes one person from another ...”
- To build up the character of a Christian we can use some of the attributes in our reading.
 - Romans 12:12-13 – “Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints ...”

2

REJOICING IN HOPE

- What is Hope?
 - Hope defined as: “To wish for something with expectation of its fulfillment.”
 - “To look forward to with confidence or expectation ...”
 - “To expect and desire. -n. 1. A wish or desire accompanied by confident expectation of its fulfillment.”
- Romans 8:24-25 – “For who hopes for what he sees?”

3

OUR HOPE IS ONLY IN THE LORD

- Rejoice in the Lord
 - Philippians 4:4 – “Rejoice in the Lord ...”
- Hope only in His teaching
 - Matthew 15:7-9 – “heart is far from me”
- The hope of salvation is only in Him
 - Acts 4:11-12 – “salvation in no one else”
- Only in His promises
 - II Peter 1:3-4 – “... very great promises”
 - II Corinthians 1:19-20 – “... the promises of God ...”
 - II Corinthians 6:18-7:1 – “these promises”

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REASONS FOR REJOICING

- Paul commands it
 - Philippians 4:4 – “Rejoice in the Lord ...”
 - I Thessalonians 5:16 – “Rejoice always”
- For the salvation of your soul
 - I Peter 1:7-9 – “... rejoice with joy ...”
- Your name is written in Heaven
 - Luke 10:20 – “... your names are written in heaven”
- Hold firm to the end
 - Hebrews 3:5-6 – “... hold fast ...”

5

PATIENT IN TRIBULATION

- Patience in waiting on God
 - Psalms 37:7 – “... wait patiently for him”
 - Psalms 40:1 – “I waited patiently ...”
 - We need to exercise patience when waiting on God
- Hope is secured in patience
 - Romans 15:1-4 – “... encouragement ...”
- How is patience cultivated?
 - James 1:2-4 – “when you meet trials ...”
 - Patience means “steadfastness”

6

CONTINUING IN PRAYER

- Keep praying
 - I Thessalonians 5:17 – “pray without ceasing”
 - Colossians 4:2 – “... steadfastly in prayer”
 - Luke 18:1 – “... ought always to pray ...”
- Individual work is necessary
 - Galatians 6:10 – “
 - 1 Timothy 5:4, 8, 16 – “
 - 1 John 3:17 – “

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DISTRIBUTING TO THE NECESSITIES ...

- Work for the church to do
 - I Timothy 5:3, 5-7, 9-16 – “Honor widows”
 - II Corinthians 8:1-4 – “... wealth of generosity ...”
 - Churches help needy **saints**
 - I Corinthians 16:1-2 – “... for the saints”
- No admonition or example of the church aiding anyone who was not a needy saint
- The church was never intended to be a general benevolent organization

8

WORKS WILL NOT GO UNNOTICED

- Hebrews 6:9-12, “But, beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation, though we thus speak: for **God is not unrighteous to forget your work and the love** which ye showed toward his name, in that **ye ministered unto the saints**, and still do minister. And we desire that each one of you may show the same diligence unto **the fulness of hope even to the end**: that ye be not sluggish, but imitators of them who through faith and patience **inherit the promises.**”

9

WHAT GOD WANTS YOU TO DO

- Hear the Word of God
 - James 1:21 – “Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.”
- Believe the Gospel message
 - Hebrews 11:6 – “And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.”

10

WHAT GOD WANTS YOU TO DO

- Repent of your sins
 - Acts 3:19 – “Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out”
- Confess that Jesus is the Son of God
 - Romans 10:9-10 – “... because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.”

11

WHAT GOD WANTS YOU TO DO

- Be immersed in water
 - Acts 2:38 – “And Peter said to them, ‘Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’”
- Remain faithful
 - Hebrews 3:12-14 – “... if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end”

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