

Is It Good To
Become A Christian?

Should I become a millionaire?

“Do you also want to become His disciples?”

– Jn.9:27

“Good” usually enters this discussion

Earliest philosophers: anything that gives meaning to life is ‘good’ [God is not necessary]

Stoics: knowing what is good will insure that people do what is good

Greeks: connected goodness to gods: gods who pleased them were good

Old English:

- “Goodly” – godlic
- “Goodness” – godnes

“Good” usually enters this discussion

Jews: connected goodness to godliness

NT discusses this concept

- Parents give good gifts to children, Mt.7:11
- Good tree – good fruit, Mt.7:16-17
- Good / faithful servant rewarded, Mt.25:21,23
- Man with good reputation is good, Lk.23:50
- Absolute sense: only God is good, Lk.18:19
- God’s people who follow Him are good,
Lk.6:45
- Saul: Acts 23:1; 1 Tim.1:15

Many false views on becoming a Christian

- One who helps people in need? ?
- One who makes people happy? ? . . .

Should I become a Christian?

I. Some Say No Because ...

A. "I'm satisfied"

Gal.1:10, who do we wish to please?

1. Many believe universalism – any religion or no religion will do. All are saved...
2. If someone implies a person is lost, he is intolerant

B. "I can't afford it." Lv.14:21

1. Lk.18:...28. Count the cost

- a. Left all – their own things, not just home and family, but interests
- b. Followed Jesus – requires time, work, courage, perseverance

2. Lk.14. Jesus openly, honestly explained cost of discipleship

- a. Effort, 15-24 [excuses: 18, 19, 20, 24]
- b. Family, 25-27 [connects with 15-24]. Gn.29
- c. Time, work, money, 28-33. Rv.3:15

c. "I'm bitter"

- Job 27:2

1. Persecuted Christians were not bitter.

Mk.10:28-30

2. 2 Chr.25:9, one hundred talents is a fortune,
but Lord's blessings are beyond measure

D. "I'm afraid"

- Rv.21:8
- Mt.13:20-21
- Suffers loss of –
 1. Reputation. Rv.2:14
 2. Property. Paul suffered the loss of all things
...and counted them as rubbish...
 3. Life. Rv.2:13

I. Some Say No Because ...

II. The Answer Is Yes

A. Satisfaction

Only in Christ. Ro.6:23

- Ec.1:8, the eye
- Ec.5:10, silver. Not satisfied. Josh.7:21
- Ec.6:3, blessings do not satisfy
- Ec.6:7, labor and its benefits. Ph.3:8

B. Cannot afford not to

Mk.10:...30

- Lk.16, rich man
- Lk.19:41, wept . . . Jn.11:35
- 2 Tim.4:7, *have fought... finished... kept...*
 - *“Paul is at the top of the hill with a backward look at the climb” – ATR - Davis*

c. Gratitude

- Lk.8... ³⁸ man from whom the demons had departed begged Him that he might be with Him. But Jesus sent him away, saying, ³⁹ Return to your own house, and tell what great things God has done for you
- Ep.2:1-3...their past
- Ep.2:4, but God...
- Ep.2:12, their past without God
- Ep.2:13, but now

D. Fear (in proper context)

- Hb.2:15, release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage
- Hb.9:27, and as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment
- Hb.10:38, the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him