

GLEANINGS

Article GE- 136

LIKE CHRIST

We misuse the word “christian” quite often. To be a christian means to be Christ like or to pattern our life after the life that Jesus Christ lived. We cannot live a sinless life as Jesus Christ lived but we can, through the power of the Holy Spirit, resist sin and live the life God wants us to live. ¹⁹*Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: “The Lord knows those who are His,” and “, Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity.”* ²⁰*But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor. ²¹Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.”* ^{2nd} Timothy 2:19-21 The New King James Version

If you desire to build a life that is pleasing to God, you begin your good works as soon as the Lord has given you your salvation. Then, if you build your life correctly, you will be a vessel of gold or of silver that the Master can use to bring honor and glory to Himself.

When Jesus reached the age of thirty, He knew it was time to accomplish the two tasks that His Father had given Him to do. The more important of the two tasks, of course, was to allow himself to be crucified as a payment for the sin debts of all who would request Him to do so. The second task was to call out (*Matthew 4:18-25 and Mark 1:16-20*), to train (*Matthew 5:1 and 9:37*), to organize (*Luke 12:22-32 and Ephesians 4:11-16*), to authorize (*Matthew 28:18-20 and Acts 1:1-8*), and to empower (*Luke 24:49 and Acts 1:8*) a third agency to publish the good news of salvation until He comes back. Matthew 3:13 tells us that before Jesus Christ began His ministry, however, He sought scriptural baptism. ¹³*Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John.* A christian is one who follows the pattern Jesus Christ exhibited.