



"Almost Christian"
August 22, 2021
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Jesus said, "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life."

John 8:12 (NASB)

Q: Have you ever "almost" done something important?"

While Paul was saying this in his defense, Festus said in a loud voice, "Paul, you are out of your mind! Your great learning is driving you mad." But Paul said, "I am not out of my mind, most excellent Festus, but I utter words of sober truth. For the king knows about these matters, and I speak to him also with confidence, since I am persuaded that none of these things escape his notice; for this has not been done in a corner. King Agrippa, do you believe the Prophets? I know that you do." Agrippa replied to Paul, "In a short time you will persuade me to become a Christian." And Paul said, "I would wish to God, that whether in a short or long time, not only you, but also all who hear me this day, might become such as I am, except for these chains."

Acts 26:24-29 (NAU)

Then Agrippa said unto Paul, "Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian."

Acts 26:28 (KJV)

I. Who is the "Almost Christian?"

A. They _____.

B. They have an _____ of godliness and religion.

C. They are _____ in their religious practice.

II. What is "Real Christianity?"

A. They _____.

And a lawyer stood up and put Him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" And He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How does it read to you?" And he answered, "YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND; AND YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF."

Luke 10:25-27 (NAU)

B. They _____.
And He said to him, "You have answered correctly; DO THIS AND YOU WILL LIVE." But wishing to justify himself, he said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Luke 10:28-29 (NAU)

C. They _____.
Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be amazed that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' John 3:5-7 (NAU)

Point: When it comes to faith, "almost" is not enough

Doggy Bag: Something to take home and chew on!



1. Do you have any "almosts" in your life? Have you ever "almost" taken a job? Have you ever "almost" moved to a new city? Have you ever "almost" gotten divorced?
2. Where does the power to live your life of love come from? Are you trying to be like Christ in your own ability or are you receiving the grace and love of Christ as a free gift?
3. Does your religion lead you to justify yourself or to receive justification by grace as a gift? What is the difference? How do you see this in your life?
4. Does your life feel more like the "Almost Christian" or the "Real Christian"? Do you love God and love your neighbor? Have you experienced a new life by grace?

ANSWER KEY:

I. Who is the "Almost Christian?"

- A. They **DO GOOD AND EVIL.**
- B. They have an **OUTWARD FORM** of godliness and religion.
- C. They are **SINCERE** in their religious practice.

II. What is "Real Christianity?"

- A. They **LOVE GOD.**
- B. They **LOVE OTHERS.**
- C. They **LIVE OUT THE GOSPEL LIFE.**