

ALMOST CHRISTIAN

Text: Acts 26:28

INTRO: Herod Agrippa, II was almost persuaded to become a Christian. But he was not persuaded, and so far as history records, he never did become a Christian. Might we say he was almost Christian? And if so, what consolation is there, come judgment day, that someone almost decided to become a Christian? Paul indicates that almost is not enough, vs. 29

Let us take note of some today who, in some way or other, seem almost Christian. And let us seek to persuade them to be--not almost, but altogether Christians, as Paul was & as we seek to be.

I. SOME TAKE PRIDE IN WHAT THEY CALL A "CHRISTIAN NATION."

- A. This nation was indeed founded on certain Biblical principles.
- B. Some folks think of the U.S. as some sort of chosen nation, and they hope to make it to heaven on the basis of their being good, patriotic citizens of this chosen nation.

John B: Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, & do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our father." For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones. (LK 3:8).

II. SOME HAVE NEVER MADE THEIR DECISION TO FOLLOW JESUS, BUT HOPE TO MAKE IT ON THE BASIS OF BEING BROUGHT UP IN A "CHRISTIAN HOME."

Ezek. 18:20. "Brother Tant or Brother Foy Wallace stayed in our home..." "My grandfather donated the land ..."

III. SOME HOPE TO GET BY ON JUDGMENT DAY BECAUSE THEY HAVE ACCEPTED CERTAIN OF JESUS' MORAL VALUES--OR BECAUSE THEY HAVE LEARNED TO EXHIBIT KINDNESS, HELPFULNESS, ETC.

Acts 10

IV. SOME WILL READILY ADMIT THEIR IMPERFECTION, BUT HAVE NEVER LEARNED TO TAKE SIN SERIOUSLY. "We all make mistakes," etc.

A. Wages, Rom. 6:23. pretty serious.

B. Price paid, John 3:16; Rom. 5:8.

V. SOME BELIEVE IN THEIR MINDS WHAT THEY NEED TO BELIEVE, BUT THEY HAVE NOT MADE A COMMITMENT ON THE BASIS OF THAT BELIEF.

John 12:42; James 2:19

VI. SOME OPENLY BELIEVE, BUT DELAY OBEDIENCE.
Grady Rollins.

READ JAMES 1:22-25

VII. SOME ARE UNWILLING TO FOLLOW CHRIST BECAUSE THEY WOULD HAVE TO GIVE UP SINFUL HABITS OR SINFUL ASSOCIATIONS.

J.W. Posey. You can't out-give God. Whatever you give up to become a Christian, or to be a better Christian, God will bless you abundantly beyond whatever sacrifices you may make.

READ MARK 10:29-30

VIII. SOME HESITATE BECAUSE THEY SEEMINGLY THINK BEING A CHRISTIAN DEMANDS SINLESS PERFECTION.

A. Holding that concept, they consider all Christians to be hypocrites, because they all make mistakes.

B. Thinking they must be sinless, they dismiss their own capability to be faithful servants of God.

C. It is extremely important that we learn the difference between a hypocrite & a Christian making a mistake.

READ I JOHN 1:7-10

IX. BECOMING A CHRISTIAN SECURES THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS. God dismisses the charges. I'm still the fellow who did it, but I'm no longer held responsible--no longer charged with my crime.

ACTS 2:36-41, 47

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Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, October 18, 1998