



TRUE CHRISTIAN
Billy Armstrong
March 17, 2016

I. Intro

- A. It is God's desire that we are productive, fruit bearing Christian's.
- B. Text: Matthew 5:13-16 and I Peter 4:18

Matthew 5:13 "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.

14 "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all *who are* in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

I Peter 4:18 And if the righteous are barely saved, what will become of the godless and wicked?

II. Body

- A. Disciples first called Christian's by virtue of their service.
- B. Text: Acts 11:20-26 read. Amp.

20 But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who on returning to Antioch spoke to the Greeks also, **proclaiming [to them] the good news (the Gospel)** about the Lord Jesus.

21 And the **presence of the Lord was with them with power**, so that a great number [learned] to believe (to adhere to and trust in and rely on the Lord) and turned *and* surrendered themselves to Him.

22 The rumors of this came to the ears of the church (assembly) in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch.



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²³ When he arrived and **saw what grace (favor)** God was bestowing upon them, he was **full of joy**; and he continuously exhorted (warned, urged, and encouraged) them all to cleave unto *and* remain faithful to *and* devoted to the Lord with [resolute and steady] purpose of heart.

²⁴ For he was a good man [^[e]good in himself and also at once for the good and the advantage of other people], full of *and* controlled by the Holy Spirit and **full of faith (of his ^[f]belief that Jesus** is the Messiah, through Whom we obtain eternal salvation). And a large company was added to the Lord.

²⁵ [Barnabas] went on to Tarsus to hunt for Saul.

²⁶ And when he had found him, he brought him back to Antioch. For a whole year they assembled together with *and* ^[g]were guests of the church and instructed a large number of people; and **in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians**.

C. Disciples - Proclaim the Gospel (v20-21)

FIRST POINT – LEAD OTHER TO CHRIST

Proof Text:

II Cor. 5:17-20 amp.

¹⁷ Therefore if any person is [engrafted] in Christ (the Messiah) he is a new creation (a new creature altogether); the old [previous moral and spiritual condition] has passed away. Behold, the fresh *and* new has come!

¹⁸ But all things are from God, Who through Jesus Christ reconciled us to Himself [received us into favor, brought us into harmony with Himself] and **gave to us the ministry of reconciliation** [that by word and deed we might aim to bring others into harmony with Him].

¹⁹ It was God [personally present] in Christ, reconciling *and* restoring the world to favor with Himself, not counting up *and* holding against [men] their trespasses [but cancelling them], and **committing to us the message of reconciliation** (of the restoration to favor).



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²⁰ So we are Christ's ambassadors, God making His appeal as it were through us. We [as Christ's personal representatives] beg you for His sake to lay hold of the divine favor [now offered you] and be reconciled to God.

I Cor.3:5-9 message bible

⁵⁻⁹ Who do you think Paul is, anyway? Or Apollos, for that matter? Servants, both of us—servants who waited on you as you gradually learned to entrust your lives to our mutual Master. We each carried out our servant assignment. I planted the seed, Apollos watered the plants, but *God* made you grow. It's not the one who plants or the one who waters who is at the center of this process but God, who makes things grow. Planting and watering are menial servant jobs at minimum wages. What makes them worth doing is the God we are serving. You happen to be God's field in which we are working.

D. Disciples were empowered for the work of ministry.

Acts 11:21

²¹ And the **presence of the Lord was with them with power**, so that a great number [learned] to believe (to adhere to and trust in and rely on the Lord) and turned *and* surrendered themselves to Him.

SECOND POINT – WE HAVE POWER

Proof Text: Luke 10:19

¹⁹ Behold, I **give unto you power** to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

Power defined as—delegated Authority from God.

(Eph6:10) Be strong in the Lord, and the power of His might. Not of ourselves.



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Proof Text:

John 14:12 NKJV (Jesus Speaking)

¹² “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater *works* than these he will do, because I go to My Father. ¹³ And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If you ask ^[e] anything in My name, I will do *it*.

E. Disciples taught many people.

LAST POINT – We must know in whom we believe.

Proof Text: Acts 11:24

²⁴ For he was a good man [^[e]good in himself and also at once for the good and the advantage of other people], full of *and* controlled by the Holy Spirit and full of faith (of his ^[f]belief that Jesus is the Messiah, through Whom we obtain eternal salvation). And a large company was added to the Lord

Proof text:

Matthew 7:21-23 amp

²¹ Not everyone who says to Me, Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father Who is in heaven.

²² Many will say to Me on that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name and driven out demons in Your name and done many mighty works in Your name?



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²³ And then I will say to them openly (publicly), **I never knew you**; depart from Me, you who act wickedly [**disregarding My commands**].

Proof text:

I Peter 3:15 But in your hearts set Christ apart as holy and acknowledge Him as Lord. Always be ready to give a logical defense to anyone who asks you to account for the hope that is in you, but do it courteously and respectfully.

II Tim 2:15 We are to give diligence to present thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, handling aright the Word of Truth.

III. Conclusion: True Christian's are far more than just a title or denomination. It is the relationship with the Lord and the willing heart to serve the Lord as a disciple, thus follower of Christ. As Christian's we have a call to proclaim the gospel, study to show ourselves approved, and walk in the delegated authority we have been empowered with.