

CHRISTIAN

The following is a Bible study on the word CHRISTIAN as it is used in the Bible. The word only appears three times in our Bibles. We will examine each place in its context to determine the answers to our questions. The first place we will examine is in Acts 11:25, 26 which says:

“Then departed Barnabas to Tarsus, for to seek Saul: and when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.”

1. Where did Barnabas go?
2. Why did he go there?
3. To what was that one's name changed? Acts 13:9
4. How long did Barnabas and his companion stay and teach in Antioch?
5. Who did they teach ?
1. Who was first called CHRISTians at Antioch?

Now we need to look at the second place the word CHRISTian was used. For this we will need to have a larger context; therefore, It is written out below for you consideration.

ACTS 26

- 1 Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Thou art permitted to speak for thyself. Then Paul stretched forth the hand, and answered for himself:
- 2 I think myself happy, king Agrippa, because I shall answer for myself this day before thee touching all the things whereof I am accused of the Jews:
- 3 Especially *because I know* thee to be

- expert in all customs and questions which are among the Jews: wherefore I beseech thee to hear me patiently.
- 4 My manner of life from my youth, which was at the first among mine own nation at Jerusalem, know all the Jews;
- 5 Which knew me from the beginning, if they would testify, that after the most straitest sect of our religion I lived a Pharisee.
- 6 And now I stand and am judged for the

hope of the promise made of God unto our fathers:

- 7 Unto which *promise* our twelve tribes, instantly serving *God* day and night, hope to come. For which hope's sake, king Agrippa, I am accused of the Jews.
- 8 Why should it be thought a thing incredible with you, that God should raise the dead?
- 9 I verily thought with myself, that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth.
- 10 Which thing I also did in Jerusalem: and many of the saints did I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I gave my voice against *them*.
- 11 And I punished them oft in every synagogue, and compelled *them* to blaspheme; and being exceedingly mad against them, I persecuted *them* even unto strange cities.
- 12 Whereupon as I went to Damascus with authority and commission from the chief priests,
- 13 At midday, O king, I saw in the way a light from heaven, above the brightness of the sun, shining round about me and them which journeyed with me.
- 14 And when we were all fallen to the earth, I heard a voice speaking unto me, and saying in the Hebrew tongue, *Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.*
- 15 And I said, Who art thou, Lord? And he said, *I am Jesus whom thou persecutest.*
- 16 *But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this*

purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee;

- 17 *Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee,*
- 18 *To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.*
- 19 Whereupon, O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision:
- 20 But showed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and *then* to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.
- 21 For these causes the Jews caught me in the temple, and went about to kill *me*.
- 22 Having therefore obtained help of God, I continue unto this day, witnessing both to small and great, saying none other things than those which the prophets and Moses did say should come:
- 23 That Christ should suffer, *and* that he should be the first that should rise from the dead, and should show light unto the people, and to the Gentiles.
- 24 And as he thus spake for himself, Festus said with a loud voice, Paul, thou art beside thyself; much learning doth make thee mad.
- 25 But he said, I am not mad, most noble Festus; but speak forth the words of truth and soberness.

- 26 For the king knoweth of these things, before whom also I speak freely: for I am persuaded that none of these things are hidden from him; for this thing was not done in a corner.
- 27 King Agrippa, believest thou the prophets? I know that thou believest.
- 28 Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.
- 29 And Paul said, I would to God, that not only thou, but also all that hear me this day, were both almost, and altogether such as I am, except these bonds.

- 30 And when he had thus spoken, the king rose up, and the governor, and Bernice, and they that sat with them:
- 31 And when they were gone aside, they talked between themselves, saying, This man doeth nothing worthy of death or of bonds.
- 32 Then said Agrippa unto Festus, This man might have been set at liberty, if he had not appealed unto Caesar.

I have read Acts 26.....

It is imperative that you have read the 26th chapter so you can see the greater context of verse 28.

7. Who was Agrippa?
8. Paul gives his testimony to Agrippa in vs. 2-23 and is interrupted by Festus. Who was Festus? Acts 26:30
9. What did Agrippa believe that Paul was wanting him to do? Acts 26:28
10. According to Acts 26:29 what did Paul want not only King Agrippa to do but all who were hearing what he was saying?
11. Did Paul accept the title of CHRISTian?
- Now I would invite you to examine the third and final place the word CHRISTian is used in our New Testament. This is found in 1 Peter 4:16.

1 PETER 4:12-19

- 12 Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some

- strange thing happened unto you:
- 13 But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also

with exceeding joy.

- 14 If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy *are ye*; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.
- 15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or *as* a thief, or *as* an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters.
- 16 Yet if *any man suffer* as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.

- 17 For the time *is come* that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if *it first begin* at us, what shall the end *be* of them that obey not the gospel of God?
- 18 And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?
- 19 Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls *to him* in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.

I have read 1 Peter 4:12-19.....

12. What does Peter call those he is addressing in v.12?
- 13.What did Peter say should be their attitude toward the “fiery trial” which was to try them? 1 Peter 4:12
- 14.What were they instructed to do when these “fiery trials” came upon them? 1 Peter 4:13
- 15.In verse 14 we see that Peter uses “ye.” (Look up in your English dictionary what “ye” means and write down your answer.)
16. Why were they being reproached? 1 Peter 4:14
- 17.Because of this reproach that had come upon those whom Peter was writing, what was the result? 1 Peter 4:14
18. What should these people not suffer for? 1 Peter 4:15
19. What does Peter call those who were undergoing suffering? 1 Peter 4:16
- 20.In 1 Peter 4:17 Peter used the pronoun “us.” In doing so with whom is he identifying?
21. Where is judgment going to begin according to Peter's remarks in 1 Peter 4:17?

22. If the righteous will scarcely be saved what does he ask his readers? 1 Peter 4:17, 18
23. What instructions does Peter give to those who “suffer according to the will of God”?
1 Peter 4:19
24. From our study of the three places in our New Testament where the word CHRISTian appears, who are CHRISTians?
25. Some have asked your author over the years what is the significance of the way he writes Christian? Your author's answer is that he capitalizes CHRIST to demonstrate that without Christ we are hopelessly lost. The “ian” I think of as an acrostic, standing for I Am Nothing. To put it another way CHRIST is everything, I am nothing. This reminds me every time I write the word CHRISTian that without Him and what He has done for me, which I certainly don't deserve in any way, I am still nothing. Therefore, I can raise my voice in praising Him in all I think, do and say.