

Are we "Good People" or God's People?

Are you a Baptist-Christian? A Catholic-Christian? A Methodist-Christian? A Pentecostal-Christian? Or are you just a good person, without reference to any particular religion?

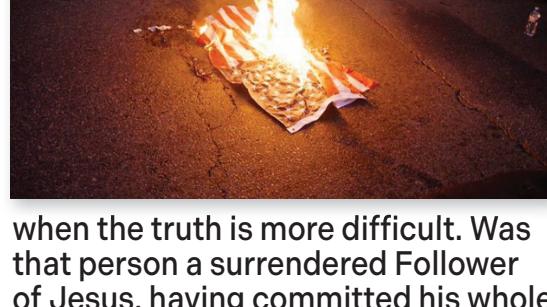
In a Jack Hibbs' podcast recently, Jack's main point was that there should be no hyphenation among believers – no "Catholic-Christian", no "Baptist-Christian", no "Orthodox-Christian", etc. We are to be simply "Christian", or Followers of God as we know Him in Jesus the Christ, without those implied divisions or variations.

I would take that a step further and



challenge us to ditch the term "Christian", which has been watered down beyond usefulness. It has become an empty label that relates to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in name only, providing a way for those who use it to feel good about themselves and comfortable in their ultimate destiny.

Often we so casually mention how someone who has passed on is now "in a better place", or "you'll see him/her again". Those of us who know better even join in with the platitudes, not wanting to hurt feelings or wanting to offer some level of comfort,



when the truth is more difficult. Was that person a surrendered Follower of Jesus, having committed his whole life to Him and living in obedience to Him? That's the question. If not, then a mournful funeral might be in order. Jack also said that he senses a change in the season in the heavenly realms, with which I agree. What does that mean? I think it means that God may be shifting gears. As we see major events unfolding – wars

and rumors of wars, famine, earthquakes, etc. (Matthew 24 – read the whole chapter), it's possible that the heavenly realms are preparing for



the great and terrible last day of this earth. Certainly we are seeing the warning signs "down here".

Because of the times, maybe we should pay attention to the many who think they are God's people in good standing, maybe even more than the attention we give to those who have rejected Him. We Americans have had much opportunity to hear and respond to the Gospel, so we cannot claim ignorance, and we will be held responsible for how we reacted to God's message.

Since it seems that the end is approaching fast, we should feel an urgency toward these many who are complacent about their position as "Christians", who equate being a "good person" as being deserving of Heaven and enjoying God's approval.

Jesus warned us against such self-delusion and complacency. In Matthew 7 He said, "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!' (Matthew 7:21-23)

"Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it." (Matthew 7:13-14)

Surely you have noticed how far we have fallen as a nation, to the point that I believe we have lost God's blessing and protection. The result is the jaw-dropping rise of mental illness taking the form of homosexuality and trans-genderism; the spread of communistic socialism that now

governs major cities and states; the infestation of foreign and domestic terrorists plotting murder and mayhem, the worst of which we have yet to see.

Our nation, once a beacon of light and God's grace to the rest of the world, is now fracturing into the evil, looney left and the somewhat clueless but well-intended right. Those who choose the left have made their choice. Those who remain on the right, who think being "good people" and who casually use Jesus' name to



ensure their entrance into Heaven, are those who need to wake up and become God's people.

We need to be sure that this category doesn't include us. We need ourselves to be examples to others of life-changing commitment to God, and then to spread His Light to any who will see and listen.

We must be God's people, not just "good" people!

Linda Gammel



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