

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE NAME “CHRISTIAN”

Introduction:

1. *An Address to the Different Religious Societies on the Sacred Import of the Christian Name* – by Rice Haggard
2. What is the importance of the name “Christian”?

I. It is a divine name.

- A. It was prophesied that God would give His people a new name (Isaiah 62:2; 65:15; 56:1-5).
- B. That name was given by God in Antioch (Acts 11:26).
 1. Strong says the word “called” means, “to utter an oracle, that is, divinely intimate.”
 2. Cf. Matt. 2:12; Luke 2:26; Acts 10:22; Heb. 8:5; 11:7; 12:25.
- C. It was given at the appointed and appropriate time.
 1. After Pentecost
 2. After Gospel preached to Samaritans (Acts 8)
 3. After Gospel preached to Proselytes [Ethiopian eunuch] (Acts 8)
 4. After Gospel preached to Gentiles (Acts 10)

II. It is a descriptive name.

- A. It describes one’s Lord and Master (Acts 4:10-12).
- B. It describes one’s dependence upon Jesus (Acts 26:28).
- C. It describes one’s relationship to Jesus (1 Cor. 12:12; Eph. 3:15).

III. It is a distinctive name.

- A. It separates the followers of Christ from the world.
- B. It distinguishes between those who follow Christ and those who follow man.
 1. Baptist
 2. Lutheran
 3. Wesleyan

IV. It is a desirable name.

- A. It is a name that honors.
 1. A bride wears the name of her husband (Ephesians 5:23-25).
 2. This name glorifies God and Christ (1 Peter 4:11-16).
- B. It is a name that unites.
 1. Denominational names divide into parties or sects.
 2. The name of Christ unites into one body.

Conclusion: *Do you wear the name “Christian”?*