

## **He Is My Father. I Am a Christian.**

**By Kent Heaton**

“Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace, comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work” (2Thes. 2:16-17).

Christian. Such a beautiful name. It bears the image of the Son of God. More importantly, it shows the love of the Father allowing us to wear the name of His Son. Taking the name of Christ is receiving the love of the Father who sent His only begotten Son to die on a cross so that we could share His name. Whenever I tell people that I am a Christian, I am proclaiming the love of my Father granted to me by His grace.

Christian. A name that gives comfort without end. Expressed in the beauty of this name is the presence of a Father who created the heavens and the earth. His power is unlimited. The majesty of His name is the reflection of the name given for disciples of Jesus Christ. As a Christian, I look beyond this world to an eternal home as His power lives in me. There is nothing I cannot do because God my Father loves me.

Christian. It shines brightly in a dark world of despair. The name infuses hope in a world given over to hopelessness. As a beacon of love, my name bears the spirit of hope in the incredible and amazing grace of a Father who loved me so exceedingly much He blessed me with the gift of His Son, whose name I wear. Life has a deeper meaning when I share with others that I am a Christian. It speaks of hope by His grace.

Christian. There is no name given among men that brings true comfort and establishes my life in faith than the name of Jesus Christ. Obedience to the good news of salvation gives my life direction, purpose and work. As a Christian, I manifest the love of the Father in every part of my life. The words that I speak bear the image of the Father. My work is measured by the meaning of that name – Christian. I am His and He is mine.

Christian. Not a label. Not a fad. Not a simple name. It means that Jesus Christ is Lord and God is my Father. He loves me, comforts me, gives me hope and directs my life. All of this because He is my Father. My word is His word. All my work is His work. The name He gives me as the mirror of His Son reflects His glory to the world. When they see me, they see the Father because I have His name. I am a Christian.

## **Putting the Lord First**

**By Tom Sutherland**

Who or what comes first in your life? Do you put off doing the right thing in order to do something else that you want to do? Do you sleep in on weekends because you work hard all week, and the only chance you get to rest is on the weekends? Are there times when you let the “things” of this world come between you and your obligation to serve the Lord in the manner He has commanded?

President Garfield was a believer in Jesus Christ. While he was spending his first Saturday as president in Washington, a member of his cabinet insisted that he call a cabinet meeting the next day, Sunday, at 10:00 a.m., because a national crisis was threatened. Garfield refused because he had another prior engagement. The cabinet member insisted that the matter was of such grave importance that the president should break the engagement. Garfield refused. The cabinet member remarked, “I would be interested to know with whom you could have an engagement so important that it could not be broken.” Garfield replied, “I will be as frank as you are. My engagement is with my Lord, to meet Him at His house and at His table at 10:30 tomorrow morning, and I shall be there.” He was there.

The crisis passed, the nation survived, but President Garfield had been faithful to his obligation to the Lord. We must remember that for the Christian, Christ must come first. He's our example, and we must strive to be as much like Him as we can. “But seek first the kingdom of God

and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." (Matt. 6:33). "Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth." (Col. 3:2).

### **Peace in Turbulence**

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid" (John 14:27)." As part of a contest, a number of artists were invited to paint a picture of perfect peace. Eventually, the judges narrowed their choice to two entries. The first contestant created a scene of a quiet lake high in the mountains. The second one depicted a thundering waterfall above which the branch of a birch tree was bending. On the fork of that limb and in the gentle spray, a robin sat undisturbed in her nest. Both paintings were equally beautiful and spoke of tranquility, but the second won the prize. It showed by contrast, and in graphic detail, the absolute calmness that can be found in the midst of turbulent surroundings. "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:7).

### **A Dish of Ice Cream**

"Then they brought little children to Him, that He might touch them; but the disciples rebuked those who brought them. But when Jesus saw it, He was greatly displeased and said to them, Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it. And He took them up in His arms, put His hands on them, and blessed them" (Mark 10:13-16).

In the days when an ice cream sundae cost much less, a 10 year old boy entered a hotel coffee shop and sat at a table. A waitress put a glass of water in front of him.

"How much is an ice cream sundae?"

"50 cents," replied the waitress.

The little boy pulled his hand out of his pocket and studied a number of coins in it.

"How much is a dish of plain ice cream?" he inquired. Some people were now waiting for a table and the waitress was a bit impatient.

"35 cents," she said brusquely.

The little boy again counted the coins. "I'll have the plain ice cream," he said.

The waitress brought the ice cream, put the bill on the table and walked away. The boy finished the ice cream, paid the cashier and departed. When the waitress came back, she began wiping down the table and then swallowed hard at what she saw. There, placed neatly beside the empty dish, were 15 cents – her tip.

### **12 Things to Remember**

1. The past cannot be changed.
2. Opinions don't define your reality.
3. Everyone's journey is different.
4. Things always get better with time.
5. Judgments are a confession of character.
6. Overthinking will lead to sadness.
7. Happiness is found within
8. Positive thoughts create positive things.
9. Smiles are contagious.
10. Kindness is free.
11. You only fail if you quit.
12. What goes around comes around.