

# + Underground Hope +

À For in this Hope we were saved! - Romans 8:24

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**MISSION:** To spread the truth and *gospel of Jesus Christ* in a world that has rejected and trampled on the hope of *salvation*. To show the *grace* of God which has been given to us on the cross of Calvary by our dear Lord and Savior, Christ Jesus. To correct our brothers and sister in error, and to *end the heresies* that torment **Christianity**. All in the sweet name of *Jesus Christ*.

## What's it mean... Huh? To be... **Christian**?

### Christianity is only a Sunday thing... NOT!

Here's a quick story for you...

I had sex last night, and after I was done I got wasted on marijuana... Oh yeah and after all that me and my friend stole some food from the grocery store. We had a great time it was a blast! It was Saturday night. Tomorrow is Sunday, but that doesn't mean a thing. Right?

**WRONG!** It means a lot... Actually it means a lot to be Saturday too! The next day that person who was out having a "fun time" went to church, and lied to a whole mess of people sitting in the pews.

Let me tell you another story... This man came down from heaven and decided that even though he was perfect he was going to take on the burden of the imperfect people. So he died, and he took the burden of the imperfect people away... As long as they believed in him. Then he gave them his Spirit to help them out, and live their lives for him.

So which is a better story?

Being a Christian isn't just a Sunday affair. It's more than that. It's a daily affair. Every day we are suppose to be living for Jesus Christ. Not just Sundays. Sure Sunday we get to show a hundred or so people gathered at church that we are Christians, but during the rest of the week, how many people do you get to show you are a Christian? How many people do you show you're a Christian?

Being a Christian isn't just looking the look, and walking the walk, it's talking the talk, and especially living the **life**.

Yeah you can have sex every Saturday night, get drunk on Fridays, and go to Church on Sundays... Now here's the hard cold truth. Those sins that you are living in, and not repenting of, they are **going to hinder your faith**. It doesn't matter if they're not right now, eventually they will.

Time to talk about what it means to be a Christian... It's **not** just a Sunday thing.

### What does it mean??? To be a Christian...

Over the past couple hundred years, the U.S. has progressed greatly due to God's blessing on the nation. It's gone from sovereign rule to a democracy and has gained both great power and great wealth. As a result of these great advances, many people have come to turn their backs on God and praise themselves for the progress of our nation.

Because of the U.S.'s deep root in the Christian faith - the majority of the first immigrants came so they could worship God in a way they weren't allowed to in England. Because of its foundation on Christianity (look at our money, the Declaration of Independence, or the Constitution) the United States quickly became known as a Christian nation.

Even today, many consider The U.S. a Christian nation. As a re-

sult, many people who aren't very religious at all incorrectly place themselves in a category in which they do not belong; they refer to themselves as Christians.

The term "Christian" actually has a very inclusive definition - it means "Christ's people." The first time it was used is described in Acts 11:26 - "...And for an entire year they [Paul and Barnabus] met with the church and taught considerable numbers; and the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch."

Being a Christian is not as simple as going to church, giving to the poor, praying, and reading the Bible. Because of the strict definition, Christians - those who follow Christ and are His - have a name to live up to. Many people come into contact with very few Christians in their lifetime, so when they see one, they think all Christians are like that one person. We need to live as Christ lived **all the time**, as our actions often speak louder than our words and can make an impact on others. Our lifestyle can be the greatest witness of all.

If we live in a Christ-like manner, people will often see our actions and wonder why we act the way we do. Wonder why we don't do the things they do. 1 Peter 4:14-16 say, "*But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. AND DO NOT FEAR THEIR INTIMIDATION, AND DO NOT BE TROUBLED, but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence; and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame.*" Not only do we need to live holy lives, but we also need to be willing to suffer for Christ and be prepared to give an answer to anyone who asks why we live as we do.

So next time you're tempted to give the person who just cut you off a dirty look, remember who you represent.

### Set Apart For Him

Living as a Christian in the United States has its benefits, as well as its downfalls. We have the freedom to worship God as we wish, but we aren't as strong in our faith (in general) as those Believers who suffer daily and die for their faith. Out of all the countries in the world, the United States has the weakest Christians. Those who are persecuted daily learn to trust God because He's all they have. Here in the U.S., many people have trouble standing up for Christ at school, at work, or at play - all very little tests of our faith compared to what many Christians go through. Like Peter when he walked on water, we take our eyes off Jesus in situations like these, rather than trusting him to guide us and carry us through our

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**Have questions about Jesus, need answers and you're not sure where to look? We're willing to help you.**

Feel free to contact us at: email@erichmusick.com and InsyderHomieLC@aol.com

**February 19th, 2002** In the Year of our Lord

**Cont. Set Apart**

ordeals. Instead of standing up for what's right, we often go along with what's wrong.

Living in the U.S. with continual pressure from society to conform, it's easy to fall away from God and trust our peers, money, our job, our country's military, or the government in place of God. Rather than conforming, we need to be set apart. (Psalm 4:3, "*But know that the LORD has set apart the godly man for Himself; the LORD hears when I call to Him.*" Leviticus 20:26, "*Thus you are to be holy to Me, for I the LORD am holy; and I have set you apart from the peoples to be Mine.*") As Matthew 7:13-14 (NASB) says, "*Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.*" It's easy to follow everyone else. It takes God-given character, though, to stand up for Him. We have His Holy Spirit, who enables us to do such things.

Every day we have many opportunities to live Christ-like lives. Every day, we have chances to show others what its like to be different - what its like to live for the Lord. We need to make the most of these opportunities, as Ephesians 5:15-16 explains: "*Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil.*"

There are many activities that are popular in our society today; things that everyone seems to do, even many Christians; things that maybe aren't the best way to spend our time. Take, for example, movies and television. Both movies and TV teach the values of the world - few movies teach the values, rules, and guidelines set forth in the Bible. Philippians 4:8 explains, "*Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.*" Are the popular movies and TV shows true, honorable, right, pure, lovely, of good repute, excellent, or worthy of praise? Do they bring glory to God? If we don't do these types of activities, not only do we keep our thoughts pure, but we also show the world that we're different - that Christians stand for something far beyond what the human mind can comprehend. We stand for Christ.

If you never get funny looks or criticism for your beliefs in God or for doing things others don't or for not doing things most others do, maybe there's something you need to change. Ask God to show you how you need to change and He will give you the strength to do what's right.

**A Sermon all about this stuff...**

Back to this Sunday thing again... You know how every Sunday your Pastor gives you a nice long sermon? Chances are half of you fall asleep, and the other half are twiddling your thumbs through most of it. Right?

Well we're going to throw another Sermon at you, this one is guaranteed not to put you asleep and to keep your fingers peeled to the edge of the pages.

Quite often Christians forget what exactly it means to be that word... Christian. They don't understand that the word Christian holds a more important word, Christ. Being a Christian simply means that you have faith in Jesus Christ, and by the power of the Holy Spirit you hope to live a Christ-like life. It's not always the easiest thing to do, yeah there are going to be challenges, but what fun is life without challenges?

If you're striving for a more Christ-like life, read your Bible, read the Gospels and follow them, try to live by them. That's striving for that Christ-like life. Or you can read St. Paul's epistles and

read what he teaches. St. Paul himself strived to live a Christ-like life. Maybe that's why when you say the word Christian, St. Paul *always* comes to mind.

More specifically though, Jesus himself gave an important Sermon about living a Christian life. What happened was, one day Jesus walked on top of a mount, and he started talking. He said... Blessed are these people... and Blessed are those people... Theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Then he went on, and gave us a perfect instruction of the Christ-like life.

This Sermon, which is way better than any Sermon your Pastor will give, regardless of how many years he spent on his school's Forensics team.

The Sermon on the Mount, from Matthew Chapter's 5-7 is the best Sermon to look at when trying to find out about what it means to be a Christian. It's an awesome educational tool for turning from those nasty sins and walking towards Christ.

Next Sunday when you get sleepy, instead of using that Bible as pillow, whip that thing open, and check out Matthew 5-7, See what Jesus is trying to tell you.

**Devotional - Do a Good Turn Daily**

Do a good turn daily... Something the Boy Scouts use as a motto, or something Jesus said?

Well the Boy Scouts may use it as their motto, but I think God laid that one way before the ten commandments. Actually... That one was written on our heart, back in the day.

The Boy Scouts run around doing good turns. They help people out every day. One may help an old lady carry a bag of groceries to her car, another might hold a door open for a mom and her four children, and a third might simply say "Hello" to you when he see you walking in the hall way at school. Any way you look at it, those are ALL good turns. They aren't that hard to do either. They're actually, very easy to do, and very satisfying also.

Have you ever helped someone out, who really needed help? Afterwards I bet you felt *really* good, didn't you?

It's a wonderful feeling to do something for someone else. Why? Because it's an act of love. What does Jesus say about Love? Oh yeah that's right... He's says it's the greatest commandment of **ALL**. Jesus replied: "*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.*" *This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself.*" (Matt. 22:37-39, NIV) See God commanded Good Turns a long time ago.

As you go through your week look, literally bug out your eyes and look, for people who need help. Think of every time you sin, and try and find someone that needs help for each one of those and then help them. That's a challenge, see if you don't feel better after you've helped them out.

We're entering the season of Lent in the church year. Traditionally people give things up. Usually they are foods, the most common is chocolate. People give up loves for stuff for 40 days. Why? To make a better commitment to God.

Instead of giving something up for Lent, try taking something on, Good Deeds, every time someone needs them. To make a better commitment to God.

**On the internet???**

Hey, are you on the internet? We're trying to make a home, check it out at: <http://erichmusick.com/uHope/>

**Have questions about Jesus, need answers and you're not sure where to look? We're willing to help you.**

Feel free to contact us at: [email@erichmusick.com](mailto:email@erichmusick.com) and [InsyderHomieLC@aol.com](mailto:InsyderHomieLC@aol.com)