

Recently, a news headline declared that Christianity in the US is diminishing and is being replaced by non believers in God. Perhaps, to better understand their study, we should look at how the world defines Christianity.

To the world, any religion that claims to be Christian qualifies as Christianity, notwithstanding what the Word of God says. For such, here's how the Word defines them:

Mat 15:7-9: "Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying: 'These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with *their* lips, but their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.'"

In other words, unless Christianity has at its core the Word of God rather than religion, it is not Christianity but rather imitations born of deceptive teachings based on humanistic desires.

The reason 2Peter 2:1-3 says, "But there were also false prophets in Israel, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will cleverly teach destructive heresies and even deny the Master who bought them."

Not surprisingly Jesus said in Luke 6:46, "But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say?"

Have we been deceived and espoused the world's definition of Christianity rather than God's?

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GOD'S DEFINITION OF CHRISTIANITY

***“Jesus said to him, “I am the way,
the truth, and the life. No one
comes to the Father except
through Me.” John 14:6***

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In truth, Christianity has its source in Christ, just as Jesus said in John 14:6. Therefore, Christianity has nothing to do with simply belonging to a religion claiming so, as true Christianity implies a personal relationship with God through Christ and to follow His teachings.

Here's how Jesus defined it:

John 3:3: “I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God.”

John 8:12: “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”

John 6:44: “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.”

John 17:3: “And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.”

The reason 1Tim 2:5 says, “For *there is* one God and one Mediator between God and men, *the* Man Christ Jesus.”

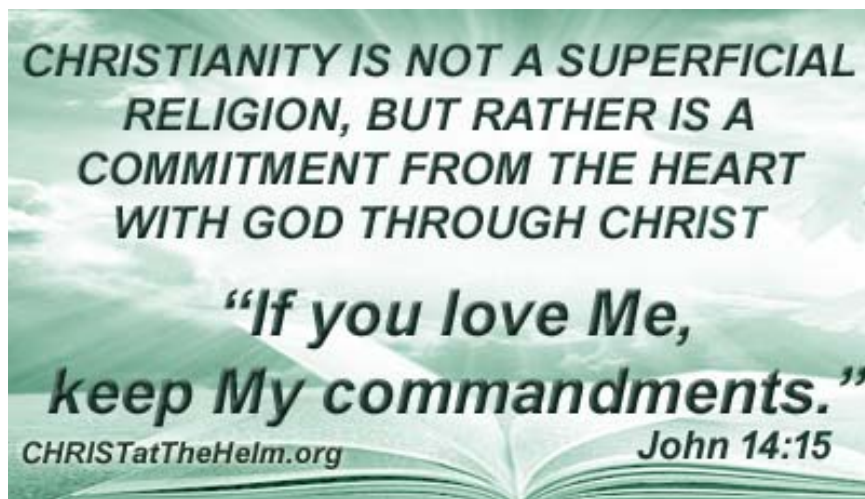
Obviously, the door to Christianity is Christ, and as such, our only source of knowledge is found in the Word of God, and not through the world or religions whose definition of Christianity is based on man's opinions.

Why?

Rom 8:7: “Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.”

Do we understand true Christianity in light of God's Word?

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How is a true Christian's life transformed?

John 14:21: “He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.”

Obviously, true faith in Christ consists in living to follow Him, and following Him requires the knowledge of His Word.

For what purpose?

Col 1:10: “That you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing *Him*, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.”

How is that achieved?

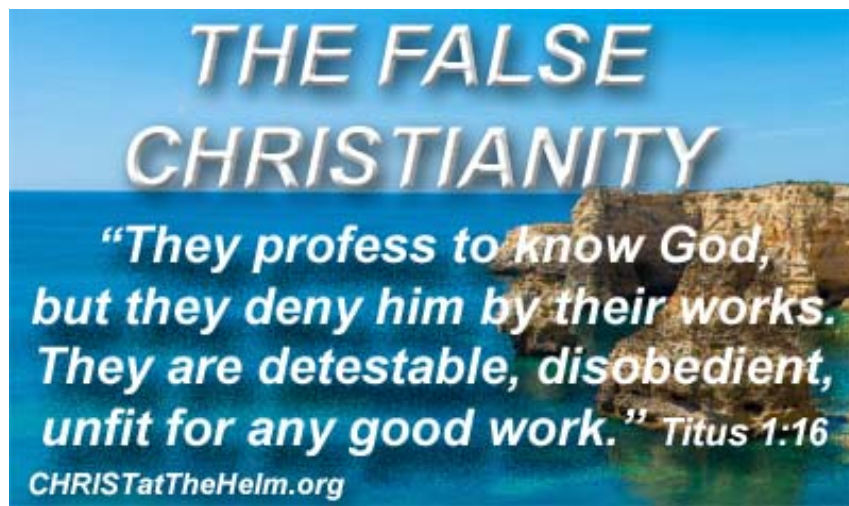
Col 2:6-7: “As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.”

Heb 12:1-2: “Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares *us*, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

Col 3:23: “And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men.” The reason Jesus said in Mat 3:8: “Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.”

Introspection: Do I daily grow in Christ?

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Why do some people testify that they no longer are Christians? Could it be that they never were?

Rom 10:3 says, "Since they did not know the righteousness of God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness."

In other words, an invented Christianity is a deception. That's why Col 2:8 states: "Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ."

Why?

Rom 8:7-8: "Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God."

1John 2:3-5: "Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him."

In Mat 7:21 Jesus declared: "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven."

Therefore, isn't it clear from scripture that anyone claiming to return to the world never did belong to Christ in the first place?

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TRUE CHRISTIANITY WITH THE SEAL OF GOD

“Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.”

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2Cor 1:21-22

As the Word of God says, when we truly believe in Christ, repented of our sins and surrendered our lives to follow Him as... LORD, then God has put His Spirit in our hearts and set His seal of ownership on us for eternity.

The reason Jesus said in John 10:28-30: “And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch *them* out of My Father’s hand. I and My Father are one.”

As the saying goes, “Once saved, always saved” is only true for genuine born again believers in Christ.

Rom 8:9 tells us, “But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.”

Christianity is not a superficial religion. Rather, it encompasses to truly believe in Christ, and commit to God from the heart to follow Him at His Word.

We can therefore conclude that in light of God’s Word, true Christianity increases each day, as more and more are welcomed into the Kingdom of God through salvation.

Have we truly believed in Christ, surrendered our lives to follow Him, been indwelt by His Spirit and sealed by God through salvation in Christ?

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