When I Say I Am A Christian

Tony Mauck · 2 Timothy 2:11–12

INTRODUCTION

- By our understanding of his will and our pursuit of his things, to become more like him, to more closely resemble our Savior.
- I want to talk about this feel good approach to religion that seems to be appealing to some.
- There are some people who possess a lot of warm fuzzies about their faith who are on the precipice of eternal disaster.

1 I Am Compelled to Overcome

2 Timothy 2:11–12; Galatians 2:20; 1 Timothy 6:12

- If we have died with him, we shall also live with him. If we endure, we shall also reign with him.
- We die with him at the very beginning, don't we? When we're buried with him in baptism and we rise to walk in newness of life.
- It wasn't just an initial death in our baptism into Christ, it's ongoing death.
- If it was just a stroll and a walk in the park, why would Paul call this a fight?
- It involves work and diligence and self-denial and sacrifice, mourning, godly sorrow that produces repentance, rebukes.
- I will take up my cross for as long as I must carry it in whatever shape and size it happens to come in.

2 I Have Received Grace That Exceeds My Sin

2 Corinthians 8:9; 1 Peter 1:13; Hebrews 7:25

- When I say I am a Christian, I am saying that I have received grace that exceeds my sin and my guilt.
- True knowledge of all that God has done is the key to persevering.
- Gird your minds for action. Keep sober in spirit. Fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.
- The problem with the warm fuzzies I talked about is that they often lack balance.
- You were dependent upon the grace provider all the way along. But you have to walk to receive the benefits of his grace.
- And he is able to save forever those who draw near to him.

3 I Submit to Him as My King

Hebrews 5:9

- When I say I am a Christian, that only is true if I submit to him as my king. And that means obedience.

- He is the author of eternal salvation to all those who obey him.
- To be a Christian, we have to acknowledge Jesus as our Lord. Why do you call me Lord? And do not do the things that I say.
- Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, and my all.
- We're compelled by his love. We're compelled by his grace.

4 Join Me in My Salvation and My Rejoicing

- Finally, when I say I am a Christian, I ask you to join me in my salvation and my rejoicing.
- These blessings being what they are, I don't want to hoard all these for myself. I want you to have them too.
- If there is no joy and excitement and enthusiasm over what we're doing here, what do you think that says to people who come in here?
- Rejoice in the Lord always. And again I say, rejoice.
- We're not going to get people to buy into Christianity if they don't see the difference that it's made in our lives.
- You've got to think about what used to be, what now is, and what's going to be.

THE CHALLENGE

Are you an advertisement for Christianity like that? That you would to God that people would be all together as you are because of what you know that you possess in Jesus Christ.

MY NOTES