

WALKING IN WISDOM (**Colossians 4:5**) Number #15

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All Scripture quotations from the Editor are from the New King James Version
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CHRISTIANS ARE NOT "SINNERS!"

By John T. Polk II

"For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life" (**Romans 5:6-10** NKJV).

1. Paul wrote this Holy Spirit-inspired letter "To all who are in Rome, beloved of God, called *to be saints*" (**Romans 1:7**). Clearly, the term "**saints**" applied "To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours" (**1 Corinthians 1:2**). These were the "many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed and were baptized" (**Acts 18:8**). In the New Testament, there was no "saint" who had not been baptized "into Jesus Christ" (**Galatians 3:26-27**). No "saint" ever had claimed salvation before, and without, being baptized "for the remission of sins" (**Acts 2:38**).

2. "**Sinners**" is a term to describe those whose continual practice(s) violate(s) God's Will. It was to change "sinners" into "saints" that "God demonstrates His own love toward us" by having Christ die for us. "Sinners" are "justified by His blood" only after they are willing to "Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out" (**Acts 3:19**). No sins are "blotted out" without Jesus' blood being applied, and only "as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death" (**Romans 6:3**). "Sinners" are

described as "ungodly," "enemies," and subjects of God's "wrath." "Saints" are loved by God through Jesus' death, "justified by His blood," "saved from wrath," "reconciled," "saved by His life." By repentance and baptism into Jesus' death, one is no longer to be termed a "sinner." "For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those *who live* according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded *is* death, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace. Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be" (**Romans 8:5-7**). Paul wrote: "This *is* a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life" (**1 Timothy 1:15-16**). John wrote: "We know that whoever is born of God does not sin; but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him" (**1 John 5:18**). Christians may "sin" and repent without becoming a "sinner," because "if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin" (**1 John 1:7** NKJ).

3. "**Christian**" is a term given only to those who have obeyed the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Only after Saul of Tarsus (a.k.a. "Paul") was told "And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord" (**Acts 22:16**), and "he arose and was baptized" (**Acts 9:18**), that he and Barnabas "assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch" (**Acts 11:26**). God applied the name "Christian" to no one who had not: obeyed the Gospel of Christ, identified with the church of Christ, or taught only the inspired Word of God in complete form. The term "Christian" in the New Testament was never applied to anyone who professed faith in Christ without obeying His salvation statement (**Mark 16:15-16**); **or** who assembled as only a part/denomination of the church

of Christ; **or** was engaged in teaching a perversion of the Gospel (**Galatians 1:6-10**). "Christian" was never an "umbrella" term under which anyone could claim to be saved, but was a very specific term limited only to those whose obedience was complete. Peter made this clear: "But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters. Yet if *anyone* suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter" (**1 Peter 4:15-16**).

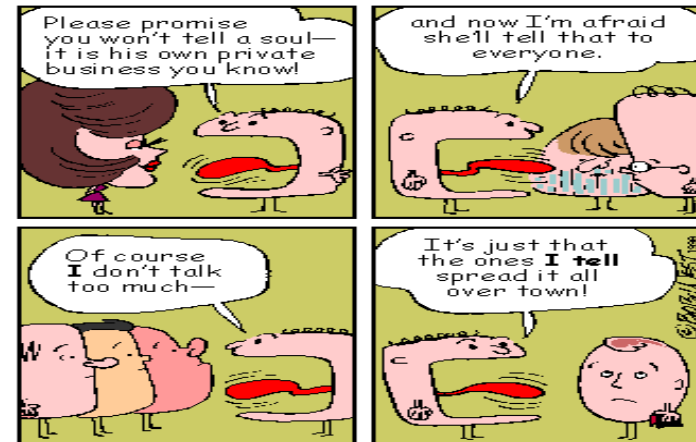
4. "Sinners" can become Christians by repentance and baptism into Christ, but "Christians" can become "sinners" only by leaving their salvation in Jesus Christ. "For *it is* impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put *Him* to an open shame" (**Hebrews 6:4-6**). While obeying Jesus Christ, CHRISTIANS ARE NOT "SINNERS!"
-----jtpll

Salted Speech **Colossians 4:6**

~"READING MAKES A LEARNED MAN, WRITING A CORRECT MAN, CONVERSATION A READY MAN, AND THINKING A GREAT MAN."
-----Lord Bacon, p. 26, **The Christian Almanac, 1832**
~"LIFE IS LIKE AN ONION. YOU PEEL IT OFF ONE LAYER AT A TIME, AND SOMETIMES YOU WEEP."
-----CARL SANDBURG



THEOPHILUS



A Nation Without God

God never permitted any painter, sculptor, artist, or Holy Spirit-inspired Bible writer to give even the least hint of what Jesus Christ looked like in His physical body on earth. Godless people, in their ignorance of the Bible, will lash out at whatever they think represents Jesus Christ. **France opened the 2024 Summer Olympics with a perverse blasphemy of the painting, "The Last Supper."** France's national ignorance mocked a painter's ignorance. "This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness" (**Ephesians 4:17-19**).
-----John T. Polk II

3 things you cannot
recover in life: the
WORD after its
said, the
MOMENT after its
missed, and the
TIME after its
gone.