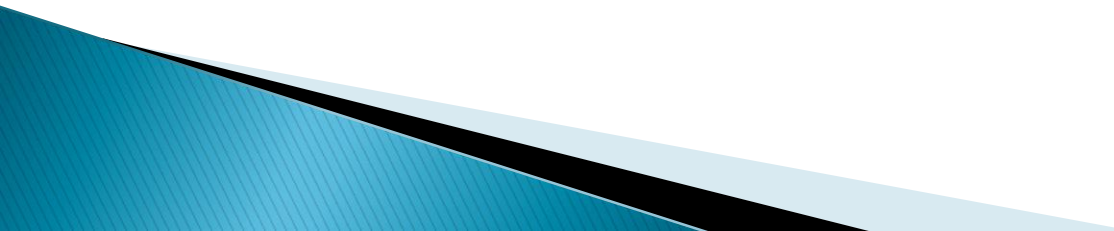


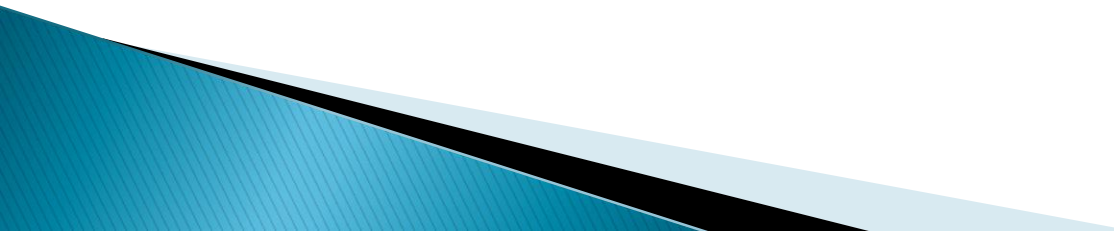
# Just a Christian

Acts 11:19–26

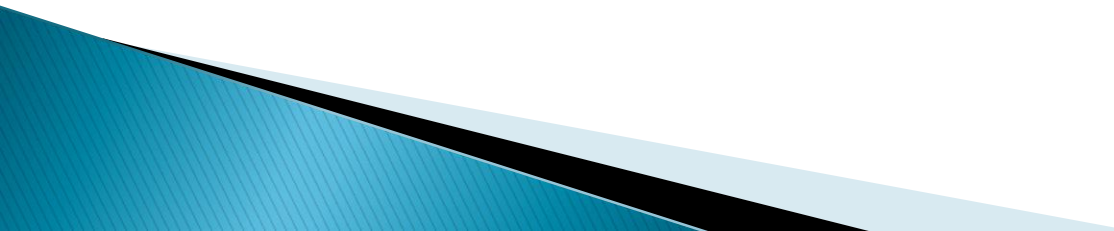
# Introduction

- ▶ State of religious world today
  - ▶ So much division and confusion
  - ▶ Causes many to be confused about even Jesus Christ
  - ▶ Why so many names?
  - ▶ Why so many doctrines?
  - ▶ Why so many denominations?
  - ▶ IT WAS NOT GOD'S PLAN, BUT MAN'S.
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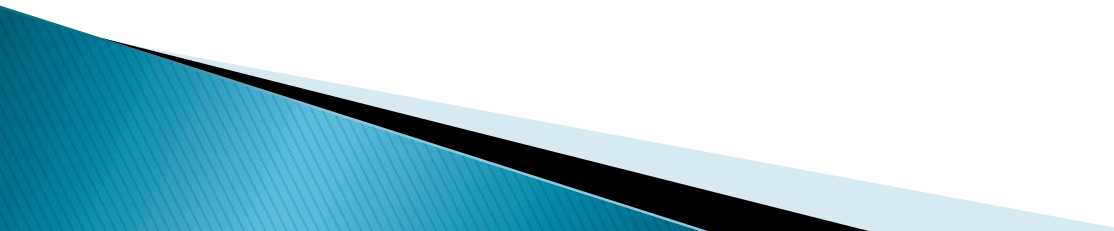
# Names Mean Something

- ▶ Names of individuals are important.
  - ▶ Last signify which family that one belongs to
  - ▶ Names often have a lot of meaning.
  - ▶ “Lo Ammi”, “Jacob”, etc.
  - ▶ God even changed His servants’ names on many occasions.
  - ▶ What does God expect followers to be called?
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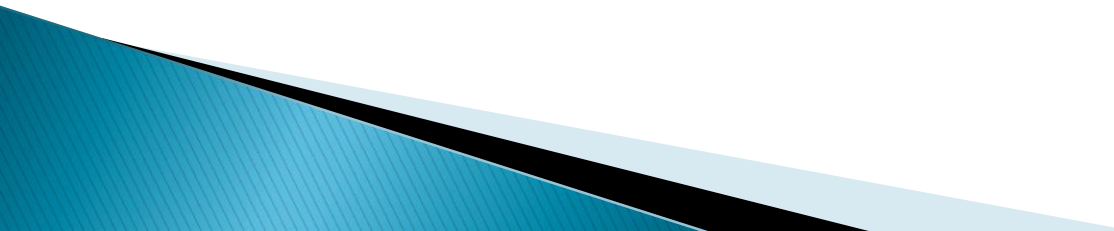
# Christian

- ▶ The name “Christian” is divinely revealed and divinely given.
  - ▶ It was a God approved name worn by Jesus’s followers early during N.T. Times.
  - ▶ I Peter 4:16. Peter says that we should rejoice when we suffer as a “CHRISTIAN.”
  - ▶ All who truly understand and appreciate what Christ has done should desire to wear no other name but His!!
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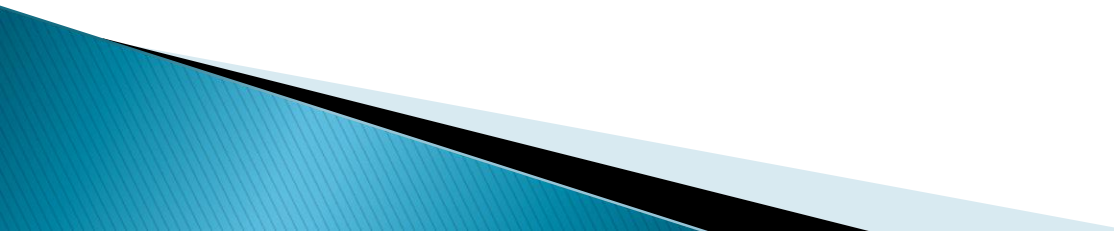
# The Name Christian

- ▶ Acts 11:26.
  - ▶ First used in the city of Antioch.
  - ▶ Antioch was 3<sup>rd</sup> Largest city of the Roman Empire.
  - ▶ Around A.D. 46
  - ▶ Antioch was saturated with heathen and idol worship.
  - ▶ In this moral cesspool, God approved of preaching the gospel.
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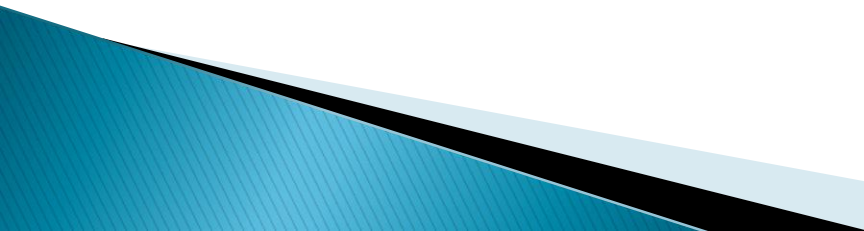
# The Name Christian

- ▶ 1. It was first given as a name of reproach and shame by opponents of “The Way.”
  - ▶ It was given by the outside world as an insulting label and a demeaning yoke to the people who had chosen to follow a crucified criminal.
  - ▶ It was given by Eucodis, Bishop of Antioch during the reign of Claudius Ceasar.
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# The Name Christian

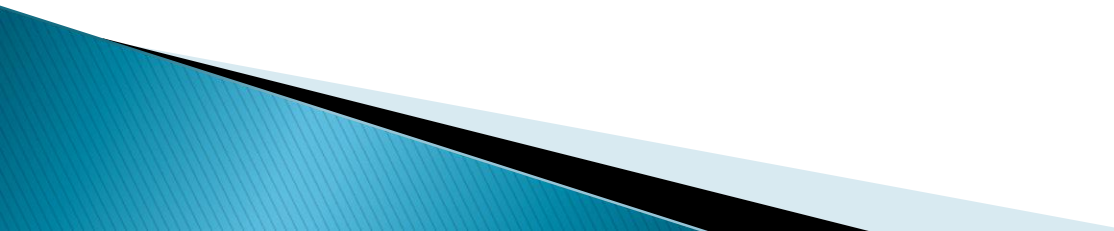
- ▶ 2. It was given after other names were given to denote those who followed Jesus.
  - ▶ It was given as a temporary name of ridicule to new disciples in Antioch.
  - ▶ It was also given and approved of by Saul and Barnabas.
  - ▶ It was a name given divinely by God and prophesied in the Old Testament.
- 

# Just a Christian

- ▶ The name Christian is mentioned 3 times in the Bible.
  - ▶ 1. Acts 11:26. “First called Christians...”
  - ▶ 2. Acts 26:28. “Almost thou persuadest me to become a Christian.”
  - ▶ 3. I Peter 4:16. “...suffer as a Christian.”
  - ▶ Fulfillment of prophesy of Isaiah 62:2.
  - ▶ A new people would receive a new name!!!!
- 



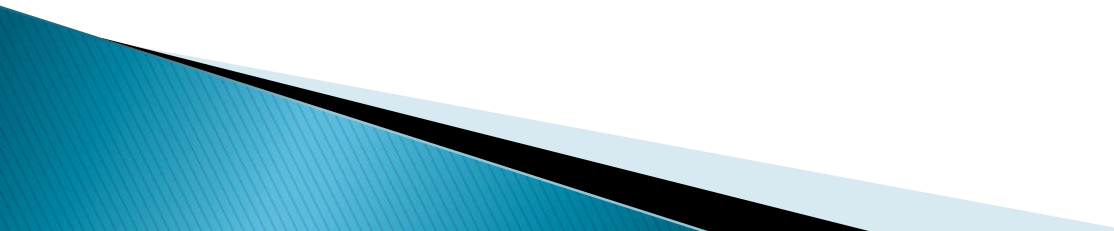
# Christ-ian

- ▶ What exactly does the word “Christian” mean?
  - ▶ “Christ-” refers to Jesus Christ the Messiah.
  - ▶ “-ian” is a noun suffix meaning “one that is of, or one that is relating to.”
  - ▶ First century meaning of the word “Christian” literally means “belonging to the Christ.”
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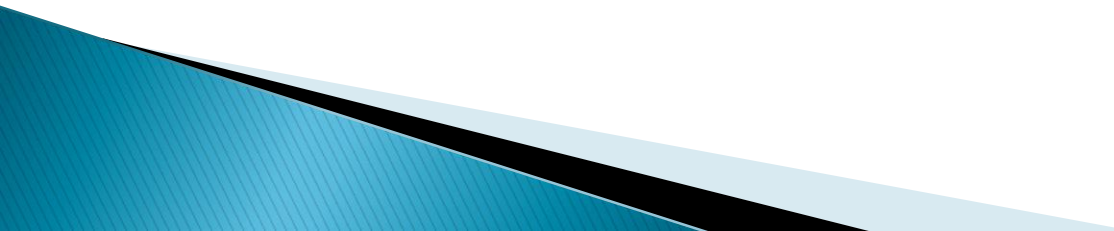
# Why wear the name Christian?

- ▶ Paul gives us very good reason to wear only Christ's name.
- ▶ 1. That person must have died for you (I Cor. 1:13).
- ▶ 2. You also must be baptized in that person's name (I Cor. 1:13).
- ▶ If this is true, then we are not authorized to WEAR ANY OTHER NAME RELIGIOUSLY!!

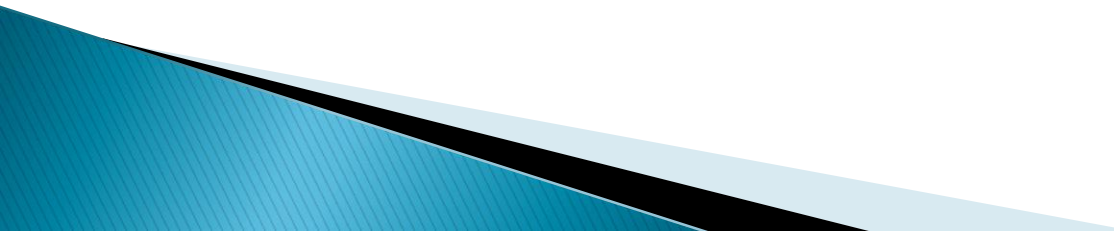
# Who can wear the name Christian?

- ▶ Very confusing today.
  - ▶ Many throw the name “Christian” around very loosely.
  - ▶ Many adopt this name via any faint, half-hearted, sincere, misguided doctrine.
  - ▶ Roughly 80% of Americans profess to be Christians, but on what grounds?
  - ▶ Scripture always gives us the best answer.
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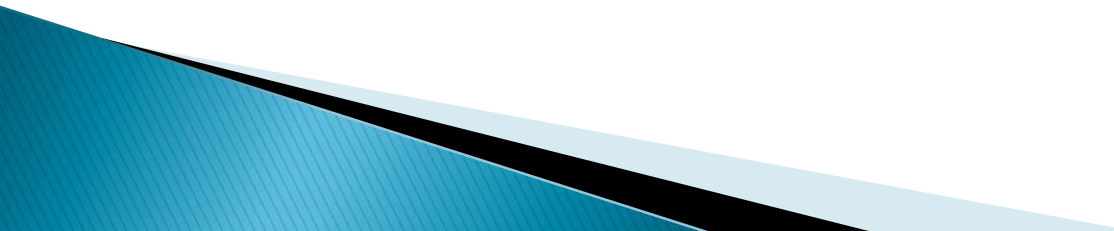
# Who should wear it?

- ▶ 1. One who wishes to please God and keep His Word.
  - ▶ 2. One who has submitted to the authority of Christ in their every day lives.
  - ▶ 3. One who fully understands that it is CHRIST ONLY who died for their sins.
  - ▶ 4. One who seeks to do all by the authority (in the name) of Christ (Col. 3:17).
- 

# Who should wear it?

- ▶ 5. One who believes that Jesus is the Son of God and is baptized (by immersion) based on this belief.
  - ▶ 6. One who is willing to give up a sinful life and follow Jesus.
  - ▶ 7. One who understands that it is God who adds us to His one church (not by voting, application, etc.).
- 

# Who should wear it?

- ▶ 8. One who realizes that it is an insult to Christ Himself to take on party names or the names of other men.
  - ▶ 9. One who is completely satisfied (based on scripture) to wear the name Christian only.
  - ▶ 10. One that is willing to read God's word, not man's word, for find out what it takes to be in Christ.
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# Conclusion

- ▶ The Great Commission (Matt. 28:18–20) commands that we all obey the same truth.
- ▶ Isaiah 62:2 Says all God's people will someday be called by the SAME NEW NAME.
- ▶ Thus, by God's choosing, He has given us the name "CHRISTIAN."
- ▶ All of the people of God everywhere should proudly proclaim to be "JUST CHRISTIANS AND CHRISTIAN ONLY!!!!"