

## What's It All About?

Religion! Cursed by some, embraced by some but misunderstood by almost everyone! Christianity is not about finding comfort in this life, but comfort is a common by-product of following Jesus. Christianity is not about finding a life of prosperity, but many who live a life of self-control (Ephesians 5:23) do earn a good income.

Christianity is not a philosophy of life, but a relationship with a Savior. Christianity is not a psychology of life, love or politics, but those who read scripture will, indeed, gain insights into the study of the psyche (Greek *psyche*). Christianity is not merely an educational system of behavior and interpersonal relationships, but those who walk in Jesus' steps gain understandings of humanity few ever find.

Long life and security and safety are not the goals of Christianity. Power, personality, popularity and peace are not even the goals of Christianity. In fact, faithful Christians often face increased persecution, not increased peace (Matthew 10:31-40).

The one main goal of Christianity is not even about church or worship or benevolence or holiness. All of those things actually comprise the **methodologies** which seek the goal, but they, in and of themselves, are not the goal.

**The goal is heaven.** Jesus did not die so we could be comfortable. He died to take the punishment for our sins, so we could be forgiven and live with Him forever.

**The goal is heaven.** Jesus did not die so we could learn to be kinder and gentler in this life, although He has called us to that lifestyle. He died to buy us back ("redeem" us) from Satan, to whom we sold ourselves by our own sin.

**The goal is heaven.** Jesus did not go to prepare a syllabus for a social agenda to be delivered at the second coming. He went (John 14:1-6) to prepare a place for us in heaven that where He is we may be also, and He will come again and we will meet Him in the air, and thus we shall ever be with the Lord (I Thessalonians 4:13-17).

**The goal is heaven.** It will be worth every tough discipline. It will be worth each insult or attack the world throws at us. It will be worth every sacrifice, every pain, every slander Satan will ever coordinate against us.

The goal? You know now. We sing the truth, "Heaven **will** surely be worth it all!"

Ray Wallace