

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A
CHRISTIAN



The Past

- * Our mistakes—our sins—are “past history.”
 - * Good news, because the past can be awful hard to get past.
 - * Richard Nixon: “I am not a crook.”
 - * Criminal record.
 - * What do we often remember about David and Peter?
 - * We can be hard on ourselves, and so can others.

The Past

- * Thankfully, God forgets! (Heb. 8:12).
- * People on Pentecost (Acts 2:22-23, 36-38, 41).
- * Corinthians (1 Cor. 6:9-11).
- * Paul (1 Tim. 1:12-16).
- * The past—a place of reference, not of residence.

The Present

- * What being a Christian doesn't do:
 - * Remove the **consequences** of past sins.
 - * Make us immune to sickness, suffering, and heartache.
 - * Provide financial prosperity.
- * We will make some enemies, and some of them will give us a hard time.

The Present

- * The positives:
 - * We have the distinct honor of being children of God.
 - * Demonstrates His love for us (1 John 3:1)
 - * Makes us heirs of His inheritance (Romans 8:17).
 - * Grants us the privilege of prayer (Matt. 7:11).
 - * Assurance that present sins will also be forgiven (1 John 1:7-10).

The Future

- * We don't have to fear death.
 - * 2 Timothy 4:6-8; Philippians 1:19-21.
 - * We may witness the deterioration of our bodies, but we don't have to do so with despair. 2 Corinthians 4:16-5:4.

The Future

- * And what a wonderful reward is waiting for us (Rom. 8:18).
 - * An incorruptible inheritance; a place of rest, of glory, honor, and peace; a place where righteousness dwells, where there is no night; an imperishable crown; a crown of righteousness; a crown of life; eternal life and eternal joy.
 - * “Joy without measure will be my treasure; heaven holds all to me.”

The Future

“Often I’m hindered on my way,
burdened so heavy I almost fall;
then I hear Jesus sweetly say,
‘Heaven will surely be worth it all.’”