

# The BEACON

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## DOES GOD ACCEPT ME "JUST AS I AM?"

**Joe R. Price**

Occasionally I hear or read it said that God accepts us "just as we are." I am not entirely sure what is meant by that statement. I would very much like for someone who says, "God will accept me just as I am" or "God has accepted me just as I am" to explain what that means, using the word of God to establish the sentiment (1 Ths. 5:21-22).

The Scriptures teach that God will not accept me "just as I am"?

1) If I refuse to believe in Jesus Christ. "To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sin" (Acts 10:43). The unbeliever will not be accepted by God "just as he is", but the lake of fire will accept him in his unbelief (Rev. 21:8). To think that Christ will save you "just as you are" while you refuse to live by faith is to be self-deceived. (Jno.8:23-24)

2) If I refuse to repent of my sins. "I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all

likewise perish" (Lk. 13:5). Paul preached that sinners "should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance" (Acts 26:20). So, God will not accept the liar "just as he is" - he must repent of his lying and "speak truth with his neighbor" (Eph. 4:25). God will not accept an adulterer "just as he is" - he must repent of his adultery and stop his sinful relationship and conduct (Rev. 9:20-21). Some brethren teach people that they should continue to live in their unscriptural (sinful, adulterous, Matt.19:9) remarriage relationship when they obey the gospel. The words of the Holy Spirit in 1 Corinthians 7:24 are twisted to support this encouragement, convincing sinners they may remain in an unholy remarriage that they believe has been sanctified by baptism. But, this passage describes people who are "with God", and does not describe the adulterer before baptism nor does it rightly describe him if he continues to commit adultery after baptism. No, Jesus will not

receive you "just as you are" if you refuse to repent of and cease your sin. One cannot continue in sin and be accepted by the Lord. (Rom. 6:1-2)

3) If I refuse to confess my faith in Christ. "...if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation" (Rom. 10:9-10). Do you see the conditional nature of Jesus accepting a sinner "just as he is"? If the sinner will not confess Jesus before men, then Jesus will not confess him before the Father in heaven (Matt.10:33). He will not be accepted "just as he is" without confessing faith - he will be lost in sin.

4) If I refuse to be baptized for the remission of my sins. "He who believes and is baptized will be saved" (Mk. 16:16) - not the one who believes but refuses to be baptized. Many souls will be lost because they comfort themselves believing God will accept them "just as I am" in spite of their rejection of the Lord's commandment to be baptized to be saved.

5) If I refuse to be faithful to the Lord. "But why do you call Me "Lord, Lord," and do not do the things which I say"? (Lk. 6:46) That warning should resonant

in the ear of every Christian who thinks the Lord will accept him "just as he is" even when he is living unfaithfully. Faith without works (of faith) is dead; while faith working through love avails in Christ (Jas. 2:17; Gal. 5:6-7). Christian, the Lord will not accept you "just as you are" if you are living unfaithfully. What is your spiritual condition before God? Will God accept you "just as you are"? Not if you do not believe Jesus of Nazareth is the Christ, the Son of the living God; not if you believe Jesus is the Son of God but you will not confess your faith before men; not if you have confessed your faith but will not repent of your sin and remove it from your life (Rom. 6:1-2); not if you reject baptism as essential for your salvation from sin (1 Pet. 3:21; Acts 22:16); and not if you are a Christian yet are not being faithful to Jesus in your daily life (Gal.2:20). God will accept you (save you) when you surrender to His will and do what He wants instead of remaining "just as you are."

### **WHY DO YOU NEED TO BE SCRIPTURALLY BAPTIZED**

**By Joe R. Price**

- 1. To be saved.....Mark 16:16; 1 Peter 3:21**
- 2. To wash away your sin.....Acts 22:16**
- 3. To be born again.....John**

- 3:5**
- 4. To put on Christ.....Galatians 3:27**
- 5. To be added to the church.....Acts 2:41, 47; 1Co. 12:13**
- 6. To enter the kingdom of God.....John 3:5**
- 7. To submit to the authority of God ... Matthew 28:19**
- 8. To obtain the remission of your sins ..... Acts 2:38**
- 9. To put off the body of sin....Colossians 2:11-12**
- 10. To reach the death (blood) of Christ ... Romans 6:3**
- 11. To be buried with Christ ...Romans 6:3-4**
- 12. To be raised to walk a new life...Romans 6:4**
- 13. To go on your way rejoicing ... Acts 8:39**
- 14. To obey God.....Acts 10:47-48**

old, someone may ask you to do something really big.

**Five:** Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.

**Six:** Build your future on high ground.

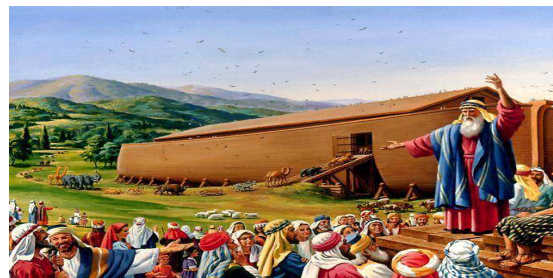
**Seven:** For safety's sake, travel in pairs.

**Eight:** Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.

**Nine:** When you're stressed, float a while.

**Ten:** Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.

**Eleven:** No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting.



**Christ is All These & More!**

By Kenneth E. Thomas

1. He is the Lord (1 Cor. 8:6).
2. He is the Savior (Matt. 1:21).
3. He is the Way (John 14:6).
4. He is the Lamb (1 Pet. 1:19).
5. He is the Door (John 10:9).

**EVERYTHING I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT LIFE, I LEARNED FROM NOAH'S ARK...**

**One:** Don't miss the boat.

**Two:** Remember that we are all in the same boat.

**Three:** Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.

**Four:** Stay fit. When you're 600 years

6. He is the Head (Eph. 1:22f).
7. He is the Judge (John 5:30).
8. He is the Bread (John 6:48).
9. He is the Truth (John 14:6).
10. He is the King (Rev. 17:14; John 18:36).
11. He is the Shepherd (John 10:14).
12. He is our Advocate (1 John 2:1)
13. He is our High priest (Hebrews 8:1)
14. He is our Mediator (1 Timothy 2:5)
15. He is our Bridegroom (Ephesians 5:22-32)
16. He is our Master (John 3:2)
17. He is our Friend (John 15:14)
18. He is our God (John 1:1; 20:28)
19. He is the Light (John 1:4)
20. He is the Life (John 1:4)
21. He is our Propitiation (1 John 2:2)
22. He is our Redeemer (Luke 1:68).
23. He is our Life (Colossians 3:4).
24. He is the Rock (1 Corinthians 10:4)

During this upcoming holiday season what is Christ to YOU?

Why not take these thoughts, study the implications of them and then get out a good concordance and see just how many others you can find that indicate what

Christ is to you and potentially to all the world?

**Jesus is the worlds' only Savior,  
Jesus is the worlds' only Lord;  
But He's only Lord & Savior,  
to those who respect His word.**

**"Christians Are In Christ's Improvement Course" - Selected**

The wise old preacher admitted, "Maybe I'm not yet what I ought to be, but praise God, I'm not what I used to be."

We continually thank God that, through Christ's blood, we have the opportunity, and ability to grow in our faith. Paul said that because of our faith, "We have access into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God" (Rom 5:2). Christians are people in the process of making daily progress. Yes, Christians have daily concerns due to humbly recognizing their weaknesses and deficiencies; and because of this they continually go to God for assistance. The Psalmist said, "The LORD will perfect that which concerns me; do not forsake the works of Your hands" (Psa 138:8).

When we accept Christ and His saving plan, we enroll in an improvement course conducted daily by Jesus, the Master of our life. (SELECTED)