

A vertical photograph of a sandy beach. A series of footprints leads from the bottom of the frame towards the ocean on the left. The sky is a pale, hazy blue. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

*The joy*

**to follow  
Christ**

Read all this up in the Bible. For example

**John 1:12:** "But all who did receive Him, who believed in his name, He gave the right to become children of God..."

**John 15:9-10:** "As the Father Have loved me, so I have loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love..."

**Acts 4:12:** "And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we can be saved."

**1 John 2:3-4:** "And by this, we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever say 'I know Him,' but does not keep his commandments is a liar..."

**James 2:17:** "So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead."

**Hebrew 11:6:** "And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for whoever draws near to God must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who seek Him."

Do you also say you are a Christian? But do you know what it implies? And do you want to get to know more and more of Him and how to please Him? And to live accordingly?

*If you are interested, contact: .....*

In a shop I see the sticker; Jesus loves you. In a shop I see a woman wearing a gold cross on a gold chain around her neck. I walk to her and ask why she wears this gold cross around her neck. She replies: "I am a Christian!"

"Are you a Christian too?" I react. "Is it not wonderful to be one? To know that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, has died for our sins on the cross to reconcile us with the Father. And to know that He speaks to us through the Bible He has given us; a Bible through which we can get to know Him, know that He leads us and tells us what we can expect from Him and what He expects from us. To know that our sins are forgiven and forgotten. And that his Holy Spirit protects, equips and strengthens us in our fight against our sins and to be comforted when we need to be comforted.

"Yes, we can live a life of thankfulness and be thankful for his life-giving commandments. And we can tell the world about his grace towards those who belief in Him. We can in our lives first seek his kingdom and his righteousness and that all the things we need will be added to us. Not having to think why we live and to be sure that He will look after us."

The lady looks at me in amazement. "Is that what it means to be a Christian? Can't I just live a good life, trying to be good to others and forget about things such as the Bible, church and the life of Christ?"

“No”, I reply. “Being a Christian also implies to follow, worship and obey the commands of the only true God with complete devotion through his only son, Jesus Christ. He not only wants us to do good things, but He demands that we honestly believe in Him and we want to honour Him by doing good things – for Him and through Him to an un-Christian world. We must tell the world about the almighty God so that we can all know, honour, praise and thank Him. Only good deeds will not help because He wants you to believe in Him, to be his child and to live for ever.”

The lady looks at me and sighs. “You mean to say that I will live for ever only if I believe in Him and really try to live accordingly? What about those who don't believe or who say they believe but not live as Christians?”

I reply that the Bible, God's word, teaches me that true believers in Jesus will live even if they have died an earthly death. They will cross from this life into a glorious life with Him, a life without suffering, pain or death, a life that doesn't end, a life that will be eternal. This is why Jesus Christ died on the cross and in doing so He paid the ransom for sin and death. His death on the cross means life for you and me.