**CHRISTIANITY, A VERY EXCEPTIONAL RELIGION [B]**

**ACTS 27:27 – 31**

**INTRODUCTION:**

1. After great efforts to save the ship and the sailor’s attempt to abandon it, Paul issued this

 warning to the centurion: “*Except these abide in the ship, ye cannot be saved*” (Ac 27:31).

 A. Within this statement is an absolute requisite for the salvation of those on the ship.

 B. Remaining with the ship was the condition upon which **ALL** lives could be saved.

 1. It was an absolute requirement.

2. This same emphatic, conditional and provisional “EXCEPT” is employed in the Scriptures to

 express the perfect conditions God offers salvation from sin and the promise of Eternal LIFE.

 A. To ignore these EXCEPTS [God’s Instructions] jeopardizes the opportunity to be saved.

 B. Christianity is, according to God’s Word, an “exceptional” religion.

 1. Man must recognize every EXCEPTION found in God’s Plan of Salvation.

**BODY:**

**1. EXCEPT YE REPENT**

 A. Jesus spoke of this exception (Lk 13:3, 5).

 1. The evidence clearly shows…refuse to repent of their sins and be lost eternally.

 B. Paul spoke of the same need of repentance (Ac 17:30, 31).

 C. Important to understand one can***NOT*** find LIFE in Christ without repenting (Ac 11:18).

 D. God does ***NOT*** desire that any perish, **BUT** that all come to repentance (2 Pet 3:9).

**2. EXCEPT YE ABIDE IN ME**

 A. As Children of God, it is important to realize the necessity of abiding in Christ (Jn 15:4).

 1. Jesus taught He is the vine, [we] are the branches; as the branches remain attached to

 the vine they are seeking to bear fruit. **BUT**, apart from the vine, they are barren.

 B. Jesus issued a clear warning concerning the need to constantly abide in Him (Jn 15:6, 7).

 C. Abiding in Jesus is so important; it is in *Him* that so much happens:

 1. In *Him* [we] have ***NO*** condemnation (Rom 8:1)/[we] are made alive (1 Cor 15:22).

 2. In *Him* [we] triumph (2 Cor 2:14)/[we] become new creatures (2 Cor 5:17).

 3. In *Him* [we] are made one (Gal 3:28)/[we] are all Spiritual blessings (Eph 1: 3).

 4. In *Him* [we] are made partakers of the promise (Eph 3:6).

 5. In *Him* [we] rejoice more abundantly (Php 1:26)/[we] obtain salvation (2 Tim 2:10).

**3. CHRISTMAS (**Gal 4:7 – 11)

 A. Christ is ***NOT*** in this word because the Scriptures do ***NOT*** reveal any religious holidays.

 1. In their former pagan state, they were ignorant of God.

 2. They lived in utter Spiritual darkness, wretched condition.

 3. They worshiped idols before they were saved.

 4. Their defection proposed a relapse opposing God’s Grace.

 5. Paul’s question reveal the absurdity of their desire to be slaves, again.

 B. Does the Bible teach [us] to celebrate the birthday of Christ?

 1. Lk 6:46; Gal 4:16; 1 Cor 14:37; Col 3:17; 1 Pet 4:11; 2 Pet 1:3

 A. What the Scriptures reveal is necessary for the appropriate celebration.

 C. How must [we] remember Christ Jesus? [We] remember Him every day of the year.

 1. By His Example and being Obedient (1 Pet 2:21, 22; Ac 4:12; Col 3:17)

 2. [We] **WORSHIP** Him each Lord’s Day

 A. Hear (Jn 18:36; Rom 10:17) / Believe (Jn 3:18; 8:24; Heb 11:6)

 B. Repent (Lk 13:3, 5; Ac 17:30) / Singing Praises (Eph 5:19; Col 3:16; Heb 13:15)

 C. Lord’s Supper (Lk 22:19; Ac 20:7; 1 Cor 11:24 – 26)

 D. Confessing (Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9, 10) / Baptism (Mk 16:16; Gal 3:27; 1 Pet 3:21)

 E. Be Faithful (Mt 10:22; 2 Tim 4:7, 8; Rev 2:10)