

Almost - continued

12:42). It could be hypocrisy. For some people, the fakes and frauds in the religion are a turn-off so they do not obey (Matthew 23:3-4). Finally, it could be cares. For some people, the normal cares and things of this life are more important than obeying the gospel (Luke 8:14).

The “Almost” Christian: What Are They?

So, what is the condition of the “almost persuaded” person? What is their spiritual standing with God. First, they are almost “persuaded”; that is “almost” won over through teaching (Acts 13:43; 17:4; 19:8). Second, they are almost persuaded “to be”; that is, “almost” changed and converted to Jesus Christ (Acts 3:19). Third, they are almost a “Christian”; that is, “almost” a follower of Christ (Galatians 2:20). Finally, they are “almost” saved. Like Lot’s wife (Genesis 19:26) and the rich young ruler (Mark 10:22), they almost obey God and save their soul.

Almost Persuaded

It is true that “almost” counts for some things in life, but not in matters of our eternal salvation! Friend, are you “almost persuaded” to obey God’s word? Or, are you open to persuasion today? “Almost persuaded” is all together lost! - *Chris Reeves*

Sentence Sermons

- Many people do not reject the Bible because it contradicts itself, but because the Bible contradicts them.
- God’s creation is amazing! You can count how many seeds are in an apple, but you can’t count how many apples are in a seed.
- If you want God to hear you when you pray, you need to hear him when he speaks (in the Bible).
- Everybody enjoys the shade, but only a few people are willing to rake the leaves.

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

Almost Persuaded

King Agrippa: the “Almost” Christian

The book of Acts records the parable of the Sower in real life (Lk. 8:4-15). In the parable of the Sower, we are told of three different types of hearts that ultimately do not obey God’s word and one type of heart that does. In the book of Acts, Luke records three different responses to gospel preaching similar to the parable of the Sower: rejection, postponement, and conversion (Acts 17:32-34).

When Paul preached to King Agrippa in Acts 26, what was his response? Agrippa said, “*Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian*” (Acts 26:28, KJV). Agrippa’s response was “almost”. Let us consider here the person today that is “almost persuaded” to obey. Who is this person, why are they the way they are, and what are they in the end? Are you an “almost persuaded” person?

The “Almost” Christian: Who Are They?

Who today is the person that is “almost persuaded” to obey God’s word? It could be relatives of someone who is a Christian like a spouse, a child, a parent, etc. They are around the Bible regularly but never fully obey it. It could be those who regularly attend and hear

many sermons but never fully obey. It could be a person who is approaching death and thinking about the afterlife. They are thinking seriously now about dying, but they have never fully obeyed the gospel.

King Agrippa’s background gave him an opportunity to know the truth (Acts 26:22-23,26-27. Note: His father was Herod

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1. “Al-most per-suad-ed,” now to be - lieve; “Al-most per-suad-ed.”
2. “Al-most per-suad-ed,” come, come to - day; “Al-most per-suad-ed.”
3. “Al-most per-suad-ed,” har - vest is past! “Al-most per-suad-ed,”

Christ to re - ceive; Seems now some soul to say, “Go, Spir - it,
turn not a - way; Je - sus in - vites you here, An - gels are
doom comes at last! “Al - most” can - not a - vail; “Al - most” is

go thy way, Some more con - ven - ient day, On thee I’ll call.”
ling’ring near, Pray’rs rise from hearts so dear, O wand’rer come.
but to fail! Sad, sad, that bit - ter wail, “Al - most,” but lost.

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Agrippa I who knew of James in Acts 12 and his great-grandfather was Herod the Great who knew of Jesus in Matthew 2). King Agrippa, like many people today, was in a good position to know and obey God’s word, but he chose not to fully obey it.

The “Almost” Christian: Why Are They?

Why today do many people get close to obeying God’s word, but never do it? It could be the gospel message itself. For some people, the gospel is new and needs time to work or the gospel is old and has lost its appeal. It could be the person’s intellect. For some people, their mind stands in the way. They think that obeying the gospel is foolish (1 Corinthians 1:22-23). It could be motive. For some people, their lack of desire keeps them from completing the task of obeying. They hear the gospel message, but do not do it (James 1:22-23).

The reasons why people today are “almost persuaded” are numerous. It could also be morality. For some people, their self-indulgent lifestyle stands in the way. Like the rich young ruler, they like their money or something else more than the gospel (Mark 10:17-22). It could be time. For some people, the hope that a more convenient time will come along keeps them from obeying right now. This is what Felix was waiting for - a more convenient season to obey (Acts 24:25). It could be fear. For some people, the worry of what others will say when they obey concerns them to the point that they will not obey. Some Jews in Jesus’ day were like this (John 9:22;