



**Having only a form of godliness isn't good enough for God,
and it should not be good enough for us.**

I. Beware of the _____ of what it means to _____.

Acts 26:19–23 *“Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision,²⁰ but declared first to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem, and throughout all the region of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance.²¹ For these reasons the Jews seized me in the temple and tried to kill me.²² Therefore, having obtained help from God, to this day I stand, witnessing both to small and great, saying no other things than those which the prophets and Moses said would come—²³ that the Christ would suffer, that He would be the first to rise from the dead, and would proclaim light to the Jewish people and to the Gentiles.”* (NKJV)

II. Keep our minds set on Christ as we live into _____ of _____.

Acts 26:24–27 *Now as he thus made his defense, Festus said with a loud voice, “Paul, you are beside yourself! Much learning is driving you mad!”²⁵ But he said, “I am not mad, most noble Festus, but speak the words of truth and reason.²⁶ For the king, before whom I also speak freely, knows these things; for I am convinced that none of these things escapes his attention, since this thing was not done in a corner.²⁷ King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you do believe.”* (NKJV)

III. The missing parts are _____ and _____.

Acts 26:28–29 *Then Agrippa said to Paul, “You almost persuade me to become a Christian.”²⁹ And Paul said, “I would to God that not only you, but also all who hear me today, might become both almost and altogether such as I am, except for these chains.”* (NKJV)

IV. _____ is our template.

Hebrews 5:11–12 *We have much to say about this, but it is hard to make it clear to you because you no longer try to understand.¹² In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God’s word all over again. You need milk, not solid food!* (NIV)

Romans 1:28–32 *Furthermore, just as they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, so God gave them over to a depraved mind, so that they do what ought not to be done.²⁹ They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips,³⁰ slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents;³¹ they have no understanding, no fidelity, no love, no mercy.³² Although they know God’s righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.* (NIV)

V. Strive to _____ in accordance with _____ and _____.

_____.

VI. Read and practice _____.

“ALMOST” is never good enough when eternity is at stake!



DOGGY BAG

Something to take home and chew on!

1. Read through today's passages this coming week and ask God to reveal the truth of whether you've settled for "almost" being a Christian.
2. Why do you think that so many people today have concluded that "almost" is good enough for their Christian walk?
3. Can you recall a time when "almost" was good enough for you in your Christian walk?
4. What does "merely having a form of godliness" look like to you?
5. If our lives don't reflect faith in Christ and sincere love for God and one another, what do you think we should do?
6. What have you found works for you when you have been tempted to conform to the pattern of this world?

Take a step in faith this week:

- **Let us know you are here today.** Fill out a Connection Card every Sunday through either the Christ Church app or the Connection Card tab in the top menu bar of the Online Campus Platform (LIVE.CHRISTCHURCHVA.ORG).
- **Go to our weekly online bulletin** and get involved with mission and ministry this week. Use the Christ Church app, or the Resources tab* in top menu bar of the Online Campus Platform, to access the current edition each week.
- **Beginning THIS WEEK on January 17**, join us for **Wednesday Night Dinner (5:30pm) & Discipleship (6:30pm)**. Visit CHRISTCHURCHVA.ORG/ESSENTIALS to learn about the new semester's classes, or contact Pam Charbonneau at pcharbonneau@christchurchva.org to learn all about your current and upcoming discipleship options.
- Join your pastors and church family as we **Read Through the New Testament in 2024**, using the YouVersion Bible App to read together and encourage one another along the way. Learn more and sign up: bit.ly/readthebible2024
- As part of our current and incoming annual Bible reading plan, join us weekdays at noon at LIVE.CHRISTCHURCHVA.ORG for **Daily Online Bible Study** to discuss our daily readings.
- **Sign up to serve!** Contact Bev at badams@christchurchva.org for suggestions. We have an immediate need for dishwashers during Wednesday dinners.

*Quick link to Connection Resources: CHRISTCHURCHVA.ORG/CONNECT-WITH-US

ANSWER KEY:

- I. WORLD'S VISION of what it means to BE A CHRISTIAN
- II. GOD'S VISION of CHRISTIANITY
- III. FAITH and SINCERE LOVE
- IV. GOD'S WORD
- V. FAITHFULLY LIVE in accordance with HEAVENLY and ETERNAL STANDARDS
- VI. GOD'S WORD