

Glad Tidings and Advice for the Christians who enter Islam

By Shaykh Al Albani

Shaykh Al Albani: I want to say, as it relates to the brother (who just entered Islam), we mentioned he shall have his reward twice. This was stated by our Prophet peace be upon him in an authentic narration.

ثَلَاثَةٌ يُؤْتُونَ أَجْرَهُمْ مَرَّتَيْنِ

There are three types of people who shall receive their reward twice.¹

From those he mentioned: "The Christians who believes in me (the Prophet Muhammad peace be upon him) and enters into Islam will have his reward twice". This means he previously believed in the legislation of Jesus peace be upon him, then when the truth was clarified for him, and it was explained to him that Muhammad peace be upon him came with the truth; he believed in him also. This person will have his reward written for him twice.

This is not the case for the person, who was an apostate from Christianity, thus he was neither a Christian nor a Muslim and then he entered into Islam. This person shall have their reward once. As for the one who was an actual Christian—upon their deviations—and then he becomes a believer; he will have his reward twice.

I mention him being upon the deviations of the Christians because when the Prophet peace be upon him mentioned this Hadith, and he said 'they shall receive their reward twice' he intended the Christians who were present during his era. These are the same Christians whom Allah spoke about in the Noble Quran. He clearly said about them:

لَقَدْ كَفَرَ الَّذِينَ قَالُوا إِنَّ اللَّهَ ثَالِثُ ثَلَاثَةٍ ﴿٧٣﴾

They have certainly disbelieved those who say, "Allah is the third of three."²

It is permissible for us to eat the meat slaughtered by these Christians. Therefore it is not appropriate for the Muslim to be skeptical and ask about the

¹ Sahih al-Bukhari 3011

² Soorah Al-Mā'idah 5:73

Christians by saying 'The Christians of today say "the father the son and the holy spirit is one God"'. We respond by saying, the Christians during the time of the Prophet peace be upon him said this also. They were those whom Allah said concerning them:

لَقَدْ كَفَرَ الَّذِينَ قَالُوا إِنَّ اللَّهَ ثَالِثُ ثَلَاثَةٍ ﴿٧٣﴾

They have certainly disbelieved those who say, "Allah is the third of three."³

Consequently, any person from the people of the Book (Jews and Christians) who enters into Islam, and believes in Allah and His Messenger, will have his reward twice. He will be rewarded once for his previous belief despite all of the shortcomings found therein, and he will be rewarded the second time for his belief in the truth; (the religion of Islam) which contains only truth and no falsehood.

We ask Allah to grant you firmness and uprightness upon the truth. And the religion is sincere advice, so I advise you to be diligent in learning true Islam. Unfortunately, I have to say 'true Islam'. Why is this? This is because the Muslims have been afflicted with that which afflicted those who came before them. The Muslims have been afflicted with the same thing which afflicted the Jews and Christians—division in the religion. This is the confirmation of the statement of the Prophet peace be upon him:

لَتَتَّبِعَن سَنَةً مِنْ كَانَ قَبْلَكُمْ حَذُو الْقَذَةِ بِالْقَذَةِ حَتَّىٰ لَوْ دَخَلُوا جُحْرَ ضَبٍّ لَدَخَلْتُمُوهُ: قَالُوا يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ: الْيَهُودُ وَالنَّصَارَى؟ قَالَ:

فَمَنْ

You would follow the ways of those who came before you step by step, to such an extent that if they were to enter a lizard's hole, you would enter it too." They said, "O Messenger of Allah, (do you mean) the Jews and Christians?" He said, "Who else?"⁴

Meaning they will be the ones with the might and the land that day. Thus this statement proved true concerning many of the Muslims today. "You would follow

³ Soorah Al-Mā'idah 5:73

⁴ al-Bukhaari and Muslim

the ways of those who came before you step by step." Thus the Muslims have divided into sects.

Allah has favored you with the greatest guidance. The greatest guidance is that Allah saved you from the polytheism and idolatry of the Christians and guided you to Islam. Islam begins by commanding the people to worship Allah alone without partners. Then it commands all the Muslims to believe in all the legislations which came before Islam. This is in contrast to the Jews, who only believe in the Torah, and the Christians who only believe in the Torah and the Bible, despite the distortions and alterations they contain. The Muslim is religiously commanded to believe in everything Allah sent down from before⁵, and to believe in each Prophet or Messenger He sent before.

Since our Lord, Allah the Exalted has guided you to Islam; first by way of the monotheist belief in the Oneness of Allah, and then to bear witness that the Prophet peace be upon him is a true Messenger and Prophet; then the only thing upon you is to follow the path. And you must know what the Prophet peace be upon him came with concerning the affairs which the people differ about.

You know there are different schools of thought; Hanafi, Shafi'i, Maliki, and Hanbali; these schools of thought are connected to the legislative rulings for that which is known as the subsidiary matters.

You will also find (among the Muslims) people differing in matters of doctrine and belief. These are the various deviant sects such as Maturidi⁶, and the Ash'aris⁷; these are newly invented sects. There are other deviant sects such as the Shia, the Rafidah⁸, Ibaadis⁹, Khawarij¹⁰, and Mutazilah;¹¹ etc.

⁵ Translator's note: This means we believe in the original scriptures given to the Prophets not the distortions present today.

⁶ A deviant philosophical group founded by Abu Mansoor al-Maturidi

⁷ A deviant group who erred in their interpretation of some of the Divine Attributes of Allah

⁸ A deviant sect of the Shia

⁹ A deviant sect founded by Abdullah ibn Ibaad al-Tameemi. They deviated concerning the Divine Attributes of Allah among others issues.

¹⁰ A deviant sect known for their acts of terrorism, rebelling against the Muslim ruler, and declaring the Muslims to be disbelievers based upon committing major sins.

¹¹ A deviant sect who share the errors of the Khawarij; as well as errors in Divine decree, and denying the Attributes of Allah.

Therefore it is upon you to perfect the first guidance you have been given, by learning the legislation of Allah the Exalted which is derived from the Book of Allah (Quran) and from the authentic narrations (Hadith) of the Messenger of Allah and that which the Salaf Salih (Pious Predecessors) were upon.

The Salaf is comprised of the first generation of Muslims who were the companions of the Prophet peace be upon him, and then the next generation who followed them, and then the next generation that followed them. This is because the Prophet peace be upon him bore witness that these first three generations would be upon goodness. This statement was mentioned in an authentic Hadith. He said:

خير الناس قرني ثم الذين يلونهم ثم الذي يلونهم

The best generation is my generation, then those that follow them, then those that follow them.¹²

And in order for you to achieve the completeness and perfection of the first guidance you must implement a verse in the Noble Quran; and it is the statement of Allah the Exalted:

فَاسْأَلُوا أَهْلَ الذِّكْرِ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ لَا تَعْلَمُونَ ﴿٤٣﴾

So ask the people of knowledge if you do not know.¹³

This advice to you is from your rights that you have upon us as our Muslim brother. And the religion is sincerity and good advice.

نصيحة وبشرى للنصراني بدخوله الإسلام وشرح حديث..... ثلاثة لهم أجرهم مرتين

Translated by Rasheed ibn Estes Barbee

¹² Sahih Muslim 2533

¹³ Soorah An-Naĥl 16:43