

## Interviews with Christians

**This interview is with Payton Patterson. Payton attends the Church of Christ at Jenks Avenue in Panama City, Florida.**

These are the questions offered to Payton. The scripture to support the answers are given below. You will have to watch the Mr. Tim video to hear how Payton approaches the answers to these questions.

1. What is the easy part of being a Christian?
  - a) *“Take up my yoke and learn from me, because I am lowly and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”*  
*Matthew 11:29-30*
  - b) *“How narrow is the gate and difficult the road that leads to life, and few find it.”*  
*(Matthew 7:14)*
  - c) But while Christians’ spiritual burdens may be easy, their path is difficult. It’s a trail that leads believers into the hard sayings of Jesus such as the command to love one’s enemies (Luke 6:27), forgive others “seventy times seven times” (Matthew 18:21-22), and to regularly assume the role of a servant (Matthew 20:26). This difficult path is marked with suffering, persecution, delayed gratification, and a regular dying to self.
2. What is a hard part of being a Christian?
  - a) Sin
  - b) Persecution
  - c) Living a Christian life
  - d) When life gets difficult, Christians are to remember that this is the path God promised them on route to heaven. Peter tells believers not to be surprised by suffering. Rather, they are to rejoice in trials as they identify with Christ (1 Peter 4:12-13).
3. Can you sum up why you believe in God?
  - a) “Faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ,” affirms St. Paul (Rom. 10:17)
  - b) The physical world can testify and reveal God’s “eternal power and divine nature, invisible though they are” (Rom. 1:20).
4. Can you get to heaven by being good?
  - a) Romans 3:12 says, “There is no one who does what is good.” Romans 3:23 says that all of have “sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.”
  - b) James 2:10 says, “For the person who keeps all of the laws except one is as guilty as a person who has broken all of God’s laws.” Just one act of disobedience in an

otherwise good life is all it takes to be found guilty and worthy of punishment in the eyes of God.

c) Romans 5:8 says, "But God proves His own love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us!"

5. Is it easier to get caught up in the activities of the world than to share Christ with people you meet?

a) **Romans 12:2** ESV / 511 helpful votes **Helpful Not Helpful**

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

b) **1 John 2:15** ESV / 344 helpful votes

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.