

Lionel Thomson

How old do you have to be to be a Christian? Can only grown-ups be Christians? Must boys and girls wait until they grow up before they can trust in Jesus Christ as their Saviour from sin?

Lionel Thomson lived with his parents in Oban. Oban is in Scotland. It is a port where ships can come and go. You can see it in the picture below.



As a tiny child Lionel was friendly with an old lady called Miss Mac-Gill-iv-ray. She lived nearby. He would go to her house and ask her to read the Bible to him. She was glad to do this. In those days a small child could play in the streets near his home without danger. Lionel often stopped playing and went to Miss MacGillivray's house. He would go to ask her to read to him. When he was older Lionel went to school. As soon as he came home in the afternoon he went to Miss MacGillivray's house so that he could hear her read the Word of God to him.

One day Lionel asked Miss MacGillivray an important question, "What does it mean to be born again?" Miss MacGillivray thought carefully. Then she told him what she thought in simple words. But Lionel had been thinking already. He waited for Miss MacGillivray to finish. Then he said, "It is as simple as this: to come to Jesus." Miss MacGillivray agreed.

Lionel loved to be with the Lord's people. He loved to worship Him on His Day. He noticed that Miss MacGillivray passed his house on her way to the prayer meeting. One

day he ran out of the house and stopped her. "Where are you going?" he asked.

"I'm going to the prayer-meeting," she said.

"And what do you do there?" asked Lionel. Miss MacGillivray told him what was done at a prayer-meeting. Lionel thought this sounded wonderful. "Oh, do take me with you!" he said.

Lionel's grandfather was also good to him. Lionel loved him very much because he would read the Bible to him all day.

Miss MacGillivray could tell that Lionel spent a lot of time thinking about the things they read together. Often she read to him from Revelation. She read about the sea of glass mingled with fire. He would exclaim, "Isn't that lovely!"

And did Lionel become a minister when he grew up? Or perhaps a missionary? Or a Sunday school teacher? Some famous preachers, came to know their Saviour when they were very young, just like Lionel.

Lionel met with a small accident when he was six and he cut his head. His parents took him to the hospital. At hospital he was given stitches. But very strangely he died while being treated. How sad his parents were to lose their little boy. But they could be glad too. Six-year-old Lionel was now with the Saviour he loved so much.

So do you have to be a grown up to be a Christian? No! The Bible says that heaven is full of boys and girls. Jesus said about children, "of such is the kingdom of heaven." If you are reading these words you are old enough! If you are hearing them you are old enough. Do not delay. As Lionel put it, "come to Jesus!"