

## *What is a Christian?*

September 20

How do you know if someone is a Christian? Is it because they follow the faith, custom, and doctrine of an organized church, be it Catholic, Baptist, Methodist, Assembly of God, Presbyterian, Lutheran, Greek Orthodox, Armenian, or some inter denominational group? Perhaps some people's claim to Christianity stems from ancestral inheritance, culture, custom, tradition, or ethnic heritage. However, the truth is that "Christian" means to be Christ-like ...to be a follower of Jesus. The Bible says that believers were first called Christians in Antioch, many years after the death of Jesus and the birth of the first church. There seems here to be a pattern that demands our attention. Before being labeled a Christian, people were first recognized as being believers in Jesus as Messiah, the anointed Christ. It is still that way today and will be forever. A Christian is not a Christian because they are born into a Christian family, adopt some culture or custom, follow some tradition, or join some church. In order for one to be a follower of Jesus, they must first become a believer. This requires a personal and sincere conviction which then demands a profession of our faith that we belong to Him. Are you a Christian?

### *Prayer for Today*

Dear Lord, I believe that Jesus of Nazareth is Your Son and my Savior. I accept Him as my Lord and will daily choose to follow His Word as the practice of my life. I pray that others might see Christ in me.

### *Scriptures for Today*

Acts 11:26 When he found him, he brought him back to Antioch. Both of them stayed there with the church for a full year, teaching large crowds of people. It was at Antioch that the believers were first called Christians. (NLT)

Romans 10:9-10 That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. (NKJV)