

be the manifestation of good works, not for the purpose of salvation, but as the result of receiving a new life in Christ.<sup>9</sup>

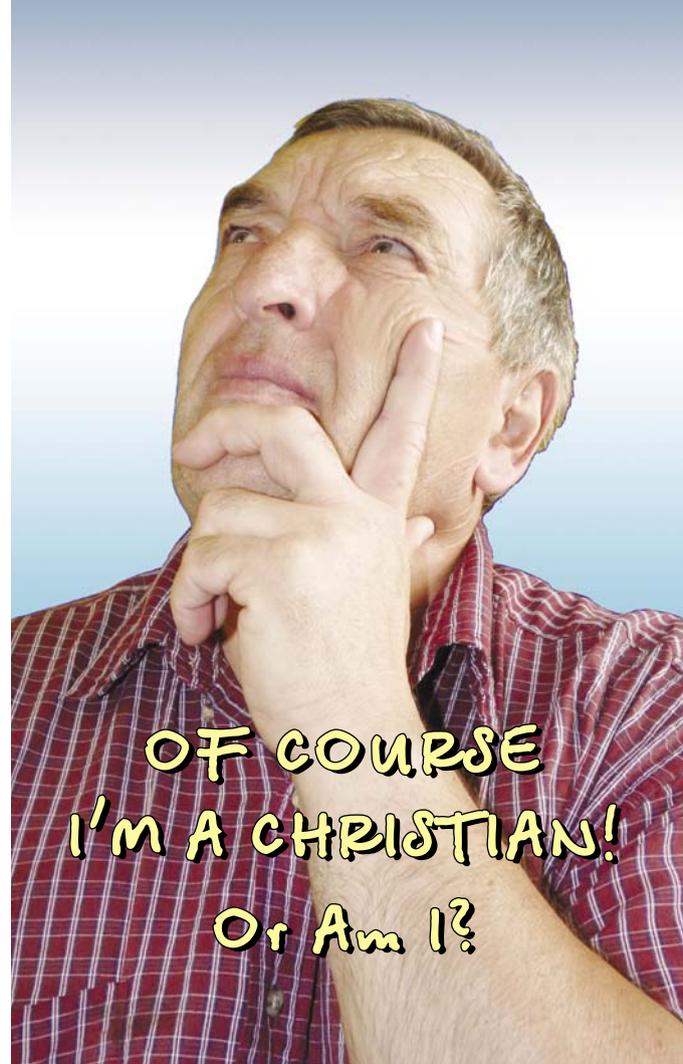
How do the words of Jesus compare with what you thought make a person a Christian? Are you a true follower of Jesus Christ? Have you received Him as your Savior by calling upon God for forgiveness? Or are you trying to gain God's favor through good works like those on the checklist? If you have not called upon God, then please do so today. This is His desire for you!<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>John 6:40; <sup>2</sup>Numbers 21:5-9; <sup>3</sup>John 3:14-15; <sup>4</sup>Ephesians 2:8-9;

<sup>5</sup>John 1:12; <sup>6</sup>Acts 16:31; <sup>7</sup>Colossians 1:13-14; <sup>8</sup>Romans 10:13;

<sup>9</sup>Ephesians 4:20-24; <sup>10</sup>1 Timothy 2:4



**OF COURSE  
I'M A CHRISTIAN!**

**Or Am I?**

What makes a person a Christian? This is a vital question! Is it that he:

- was born into a Christian family
- attends church regularly
- reads his Bible daily
- prays daily
- was baptized
- receives communion
- is a priest or a pastor
- follows Christian traditions
- was confirmed by his church
- participates in his church's sacraments
- goes to confession
- has an icon in his home
- does all of the above
- does none of the above

Because Jesus Christ is the focus of the Christian faith and the Bible is its only source of truth, let's have Jesus answer this question.

The Bible records Jesus' words, life and teachings. In it Jesus Himself says, "For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day."<sup>1</sup> According to Jesus, it is God's will that anyone who

looks only to Jesus for his salvation and believes in Him, will receive eternal life. After death, such a person will be resurrected to be with Jesus and the Father for all eternity.

In another passage Jesus referred to an event with Moses in the Old Testament.<sup>2</sup> Because of the sin of the people of Israel, God sent poisonous serpents among them. Moses commanded that a bronze serpent be made and placed atop a staff. Whoever had been bitten, and by faith looked up to the bronze serpent, was saved from physical death. Jesus correlated that event to Himself when He said, "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; so that whoever believes will in Him have eternal life."<sup>3</sup> Jesus said, referring to His coming crucifixion, that when He is lifted up on the cross, whoever by faith looks to Him (referring to His death) to be forgiven of their sins, will be saved from spiritual death and receive eternal life.

Both passages show that good works like the ones listed in the checklist do not enable a person to become a Christian. What comprises a true Christian is a person who has by faith<sup>4</sup> received Jesus,<sup>5</sup> having believed in Him<sup>6</sup> for the forgiveness of his sins.<sup>7</sup> "For 'Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved.'"<sup>8</sup> The outcome of this will