

Bible Study Outlines

A CHRISTIAN

I What is a Christian?

- A. A Christian is a person who acknowledges and believes that he is a lost and condemned sinner in the sight of God and that for Jesus' sake God has forgiven him all his sins. Rom. 5:8-10.
- B. *False* ideas concerning the definition of a Christian:
 - 1. A person is a Christian if he leads a morally upright life. (The Bible answers: Rom. 3:28; Gal. 2:16)
 - 2. A person is a Christian if he has been born of Christian parents. (Bible answers: Ps. 51:5; John 3:6; Eph. 2:3)
 - 3. A person is a Christian merely as long as he believes in some kind of "god." (Bible answers: John 17: 3; Acts 16: 30-31)
- C. The name "Christian" was first given to the disciples at Antioch. Acts 11:26.

II Description of a Christian

- A. The Christian
 - 1. is born of the Spirit. John 3: 5-7.
 - 2. has come to a knowledge of his sins and hopes to be saved alone through Christ his Savior. John 14:6.
 - 3. has peace with God and peace in his heart. Rom. 5:1.
 - 4. thinks, speaks, and behaves like a different person. 2 Cor. 5: 17.
 - 5. strives to do only those things which are well-pleasing in the sight of God. Ps.119:32; Phil. 3:12-14.
- B. Scripture especially points out the following characteristics of the Christians:
 - 1. Love. I John 3:14; John 13:35.
 - 2. Continuance in the Word of Christ. John 8:31-32.
 - 3. Hearing the Word of God. John 8:47.
 - 4. Experiencing the hatred of the world. John 15: 19.

III The difference between a Christian and a non-Christian.

- A. The Christian hates sin; the non-Christian loves it. Rom. 7: 15,22.
- B. The Christian acknowledges his sin; the non-Christian does not. I John 1:8-10.
- C. The Christian loves to follow God's Word; the non-Christian does not. Ps. 119: 97,103.
- D. The Christian seeks the welfare of others (Jacob); the non-Christian does not. (Laban)
- E. The Christian puts his confidence and trust in the Lord; the non-Christian does not. II Sam 22:3.

IV A person is either a Christian or a non-Christian.

- A. Either blessed or cursed. Matt. 25:34,41.
- B. Either on the broad or narrow path. Matt 7:13-14.
- C. Either a child of God or a child of the devil. I John 3:10.
- D. There is no neutral position. Matt. 12:30.

V What a comfort and joy to be a Christian!

- A. The Christians are blessed people in the sight of God. I Pet. 2:9.
- B. The Christians enjoy the gracious protection of the Lord. Ps. 34:7. (David, Daniel, etc.)
- C. The joy of heaven awaits them. I Pet. 1:4.

- M.L.N.

The Concordia Lutheran, July 1958. M. L. Natterer