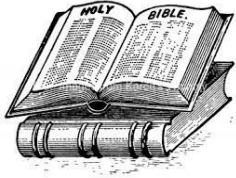


AM I A CHRISTIAN ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE?

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This is a question you may be asking yourself. It is a question you *need* to ask yourself. It is a serious question that deserves a serious answer. Jesus Himself revealed that when the final judgment comes, there will be some who think they are Christians, but are not!

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness” (Matthew 7:21-23).

Jesus reveals three very important details in the above passage:

- ◆ First, simply stating that Jesus is my “Lord” does not make one a Christian. Doing the will of the Father in heaven will assure entrance into the kingdom of heaven where Jesus is King today.
- ◆ Second, doing “good works” will not make one a Christian. The works that we do must first be authorized by the will of the Father in heaven. This authorization is found in the God-inspired New Testament (2 Timothy 3:16-17). We should be happy to do no more or less than what we read in the Bible.
- ◆ Third, if we do not do what God has authorized, we will be judged as practicing “lawlessness.” God does not approve of those who will not do His will.

A Christian is one who has “put on” Christ. How is this done? “For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ” (Galatians 3:26-27). We become sons of God through faith, which includes being baptized into Christ. This agrees with what Jesus commanded: “He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned” (Mark 16:16). One cannot enter the kingdom of God without doing the will of the Father. If you do not believe and be baptized “for the remission of sins” (Acts 2:38), you are *not* yet a Christian. Perhaps you believe in Jesus – but have you obeyed the commands to repent (Acts 17:30), confess your faith (Romans 10:9-10), and be baptized to wash your sins away (Acts 22:16)? If not, then you are *not yet* a Christian.

You may wonder why you were not taught this at the church you attend. For various reasons, many churches today do not teach the Bible plan of salvation. Instead, you will hear about praying the sinner’s prayer, going to the mourner’s bench, inviting Jesus “into your heart” by faith but without water baptism, etc. None of these “ways” of salvation are revealed in the Bible. They are ways devised by men to be a member of human denominations. They will not bring you into God’s fellowship.

It is my desire that everyone will unite on what the Bible teaches about becoming a Christian. Unfortunately, that is not the case today. But you can obey what God teaches. You can become a Christian the same way that sinners in the book of Acts became Christians – by believing in Jesus, repenting of sin, confessing Christ, and being baptized in water for the remission of sins. Then you will be a Christian after the New Testament order. At the last day, you will be welcomed into the presence of God and the eternal home for an eternity. Are you a Christian according to the Bible? You can know the answer and what you should do. Be saved today!