

## WHAT KIND OF CHRISTIAN ARE YOU?

There are a lot of people in this land that espouse Christianity as their religion. When asked they will answer, "I am a Christian". However, a true Christian is one that has accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord, thus they are in harmony with His will. Multitudes of those who call themselves "Christians" are ignorant of the Lord's will (the gospel of Christ) and are instead followers of some man-made organization that "calls itself" Christian. These are pseudo-Christians or false Christians. Most of this group can be divided up into various denominations, which are these man-made organizations. They can often be called "hyphenated Christians", for they consider themselves to be Baptist-Christians, Methodist-Christians, Presbyterian-Christians and such like. Without even considering the varying doctrines of these organizations which are contrary to the Lord's instructions, the very hyphenated state makes them contrary to the Lord's instructions for the Lord requires all "Christians" to be in unity, teaching and practicing the same doctrine, His word (I Cor. 1:10; John 17:21). With all this having been said, even of those who are members of the Lord's church, the true Christians, there are various kinds of Christians.

There are lukewarm Christians. In the letter to the church of Laodicea, they are said to be "lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot". Because of this, the Lord said that He would spue them out of His mouth (Rev. 3:15-16). There are still a lot of "lukewarm Christians" in the church today as well. Then there are apostate Christians. These are those who "after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome..." and the Lord says that "the latter end is worse with them than the beginning" (II Pet. 2:20). We still have those today as well. And then of course, there are those who are faithful Christians. Faithful does not infer perfection. "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us" (I John 1:8). Paul praises the house of Stephanas, who he says "have addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints" (I Cor. 16:15) and Aquila and Priscilla in whose house the church met (I Cor. 16:19) as well as others. Thankfully, there are still some of these in the church today as well, for without the faithful few, the work of the church would have no laborers. What the church needs today is more and more Christians to stand up and be "Faithful Christians". *Tilis*

## ALWAYS ABOUND IN THE WORK OF THE LORD

Paul wrote, "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord" (I Cor. 15:58). Let's break this verse down into five points.

First, this is a command that is given to each and every child of God. Paul used the term "brethren" denoting they were Christians. The work of the Lord is not for some select few of the members such as the elders and preachers, but for every Christian. If you are a Christian, you are to always abound in the work of the Lord.

Secondly, Paul uses two words, "stedfast" and "unmoveable" to describe the Christians dedication to the work. Both of these words speak of perseverance in face of opposition, trials and hardships. It is a fact that if one lives godly in Christ Jesus, he shall suffer persecution (II Tim. 3:12). Paul told the Galatians, "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not" (Gal. 6:9).

Thirdly, Paul used the word "abounding". This word indicates that our efforts toward the work of the Lord cannot be half hearted. We can't just dabble in the work, but must be serious about getting the job done. When one considers what is at stake in this matter, one can understand the need for some serious "abounding" in doing it.

Fourth, it is the work of the Lord that one is to abound in. Life has many attractions and influences that call for large portions of our time and attention. Often Christians fall prey to the call and find they are only dabbling in Christianity. But, as Christians, we must set our affection on things above, not on things on the earth (Col. 3:2). We must seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness (Matt. 6:33) and first give ourselves to the Lord (II Cor. 8:5). The ultimate "work of the Lord" is the saving of souls. Jesus said, "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10). The Philippians were told to "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 2:5). The great commission, given first to the apostles and then passed along to all future Christians tells us to take the word to all people (Mark 16:15-6; Matt. 28:18-20).

Fifthly, you can be sure that your labour will not be in vain. We will be well rewarded for our efforts. Heaven will be our home if we always abound in the work of the Lord. We have a crown of righteousness awaiting (II Tim. 4:8).

*Robert*