

WHAT IS A CHRISTIAN?

1. Text: I Thessalonians 1:6-10 (especially 9-10)
2. Many lessons could be given on our subject. But in verses 9 and 10 there are three fundamental traits of a Christian. Let's explore them.

I. A Christian Is A Person With A Definite Past Experience.

1. This past experience is in our text as "you turned." The word is sometimes translated conversion.
2. The turning or conversion is not an involuntary process performed by God on the sinner, but the sinner is actively involved.
3. It is a two way process: the turn is from something to something. Here from idols to the living God (verse 9) repudiation to consecration. Must be for something, not just against. Negative preaching.
4. Acts 14:15 Paul and Barnabas said turn from the useless things (idols) to the living God.
5. Acts 26:18 Turn from darkness to light, from the power of Satan to God to receive remission of sins.
6. The turning is a (1) change of understanding and conviction which is faith. Acts 11:21 Great numbers believed and turned to the Lord. John 8:24 *Except you believe I am He, you shall die in your sins.*
7. It is also a change in living which involves repentance. Acts 3:19 Repent and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped away. Acts 26:20 *Repent, turn to God, do works fitting repentance.*
8. It is also a change of relationship. Galatians 3:27 "Baptized into Christ."

II. A Christian Is A Servant.

1. Verse 9: "Serve the living and true God." Servant here is doulos.
2. Galatians 5:13 "Serve one another in love."
3. Matthew 25:40 If you've done it to the least ones, you've done it to me.
4. Matthew 20:26-27 Whosoever will be great among you, let him be your servant.
5. Jesus came as a servant (Matthew 20:28) Can we be any less?
6. Ephesians 6:7 Our ultimate service is not to men, but God.

III. A Christian Is a Person With A Hope.

1. Verse 10 "Waiting for His Son from heaven."
2. Christians have a well-defined hope of eternal life when the Lord returns. Titus 1:2 "Hope of Eternal life."
3. I Thessalonians 4:13 speaks of those "who have no hope."
4. Colossians 1:5 talks of the "hope which is stored up for you in heaven."
5. Romans 12:12 "Rejoicing in hope."
6. Verse 10: Jesus delivered us from the wrath to come.

Conclusion: Notice the past conversion, the present service, the future hope.

