Christian

"If you are a Christian, remember that men judge your Lord by you." – Anonymous

"If a man cannot be a Christian in the place where he is, he cannot be a Christian anywhere." – Henry Ward Beecher, *Life Thoughts*

"Christians are made, not born." – Jerome

"A Christian is the keyhole through which other folk see God." – Robert E. Gibson

"And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch" (Acts 11:26, NKJV).

    What exactly is a Christian? We might say an avid follower of Christ. Did not Jesus say, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me" (Matt. 16:24). In Luke's account we find the expression, "take up his cross daily" (Luke 9:23). This further stresses the need for a strong and abiding commitment.

    What is sad are the number of well-meaning folks who flippantly tell others they are Christians. You wouldn't know it by the profanity they spew from their mouths, or their inconsistent lifestyle to one of holiness and righteousness. They assume because they darken the door of a church building that it qualifies them to be called "Christians." There is an old saying that applies well, "Sitting in a church building will not make you a Christian any more than sitting in a chicken coup will make you a chicken."

    The Christian life is such that one seeks to emulate Christ. The beloved apostle said, "Imitate me, just as I also *imitate* Christ" (1 Cor. 11:1). And what of Peter who wrote, "For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: 'Who committed not sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth'; who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed *Himself* to Him who judges righteously; who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness – by whose stripes you were healed" (1 Pet. 2:21-24).

    A Christian is a saint, one who has been sanctified, in effect, who has been set apart for a holy purpose. "For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's" (1 Cor. 6:20).

    If you are going to wear the name "Christian," realize the enormous significance that goes with it. "But as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all *you* conduct, because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy" (1 Pet. 1:15-16).