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Pastor Tim Wood

What does it mean to be a Christian?

1 Thessalonians Series: What does it mean to be a Christian?  
1 Thessalonians 1: 1-10

Note: The word Christian only appears three times in the Bible:

1) Acts 11: 26 – *The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.*

2) Acts 26:28 – *Then Agrippa said to Paul, “Do you think in such a short time you can persuade me to be a Christian?”*

3) 1 Peter 4: 16 – *However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name.*

Paul’s Definition of Christian – verses 1-10

<sup>1</sup> Paul, Silas and Timothy, to the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace and peace to you.

<sup>2</sup> We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers. <sup>3</sup> We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup> For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, <sup>5</sup> because our gospel came to you not simply with words, but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and with deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake. <sup>6</sup> You became imitators of us and of the Lord; in spite of severe suffering, you welcomed the message with the joy given by the Holy Spirit. <sup>7</sup> And so you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia. <sup>8</sup> The Lord’s message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia—your faith in God has become known everywhere. Therefore we do not need to say anything about it, <sup>9</sup> for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, <sup>10</sup> and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

1. It means three characteristics are developing in my life.

1) Work produced by faith

2) Labor prompted by love

3) Endurance inspired by hope

2. It means I have responded to the Gospel message.

3. It means I value Christ and His Word.

4. It means I’m willing to share the Good News.

5. It means I have repented.

6. It means I’m expecting Christ’s return.