



Christian True or False



There are many today who will say that they are 'born again.' This is especially so in America, where twenty million claim to have been 'born again.'

There have even been American Presidents who have claimed this for themselves. In this country some people talk of 'making a commitment' or a 'decision' for Christ.

However, many who do this eventually walk away from Christianity. Questions are then asked, such as, "How deep and lasting is all this?" "What is true conversion?"

We live in days when most of the hard work is taken out of life. Many believe that conversion has also been made easy. What the Bible describes as entering the "straight gate" and the "narrow way" has apparently been made less straight and less narrow.

There is so much confusion

surrounding the subject of becoming a Christian. We need to be perfectly clear what it means to be one, because the issues are of eternal importance. We want to be sure that our profession of faith does not *fall short* of reality.

True Conversion

It is true that we need to go to church and read our Bibles and endeavour to please God, but true conversion is *more* than this.

A Christian is not someone who has done something to gain something from God. A Christian is someone who has *a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.*

The Scripture tells us that "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way;" (Isaiah 53:6). Our sin is the barrier between us and God and it must be removed. We need to be *reconciled* to Him.

We need the cleansing of the precious blood of Christ, shed on

the cross for sinners. We must *get right with God.* We must, therefore, seek Him through prayer and reading and hearing the Word of God. We are saved *by grace* through faith.

In Ephesians 2v8 we read, 'For by grace you have been saved through faith, and not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.'

Faith is like a hand stretched out to receive a gift. We must go on seeking God *until* we find Him. As the Scripture says, "You will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with *all* your heart" (Jeremiah 29:13). We must come to God by faith, and go on seeking *until He comes to us.*

We may, or may not, know the exact moment we have been saved – this does not matter. What is important is that the *reality* of a living relationship with God is *experienced.*

A Personal Testimony

The following is the testimony of someone who became a Christian. It will help to illustrate the point

we are trying to make.

"The Lord has blessed me in that I have been brought up in a Christian home, and from my earliest years I have heard stories from the Bible.

My first memory of seeking God was when I was about nine years old. At this time I was very concerned lest I should die, because I knew I would go to hell.

We must...go on seeking until God comes to us

One night I awoke and couldn't get to sleep. I read Psalm 86, and these words expressed what I was feeling, particularly verse 1, 'Bow down Your ear, O Lord, hear me; for I am poor and needy'.

My mother had also mentioned about how Paul said he was the 'chief of sinners', and yet God saved him.

In John 6:37, the words, 'the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out', also encouraged me and gave me hope that I could be saved.

As time went on, I read my Bible more and more. I am not sure of

the exact date when the Lord saved me, but gradually my desire for reading the Bible grew. I began to read it at lunchtimes. I learned from it, and felt an inner peace.

On one occasion, I went to another church with young people, helping with door-to-door work. At this time I felt God's strength, and was no longer afraid of the return of the Lord Jesus.

A visiting preacher preached on Colossians 2:13 and 14, 'And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross'.

These verses gave assurance, and helped me to understand why Jesus

died on the cross. I knew that my sins had been wiped away.

Since then, there have been times when I have been troubled at the thought of the Second Coming of Christ. Satan has tempted me to think that because of my sin I am not saved.

Recently, I was encouraged by 1 John 4:10, 'Herein is love, not that

we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.' Now I am sure I am the Lord's."

The text on the cover of this bulletin speaks of the confidence we can have, that God will hear our prayers if we sincerely seek Him for His guidance.

Have you looked to God to save you? Are you looking to God to lead you?

*I knew that my sins
had been wiped
away*