**ARE YOU A CHRISTIAN?**

**Acts 11:24 – 26**

**INTRODUCTION**

1. The name Christian(s) is found 3 times in the Bible (Ac 11:26; 26:28; 1 Pet 4:16).

2. One could ***NOT*** be called by a better name than a Christian; **BUT**, what is a Christian?

 A. [We] hear a lot of people being referred to as Christians, **BUT** what are they?

 1. With its modern uses, it is often misused in the way originated by The Bible.

 B. A Christian is ***NOT*** just a BAPTIZED Person, Church Member or Weekly Worshipper.

 1. There are many of these, **BUT** fewer Christians (Mt 7:13, 14).

3. Hopefully, [we] will understand what is necessary to be a Christian in the 21st Century.

 A. Thus, being a Christian today is ***NO*** different than being one from the 1st Century.

**BODY:**

**1. THE MEANING OF THE WORD: CHRISTIAN**

 A. According to Thayer: a Christian is a “follower of Christ”. Paul’s words (1 Cor 11:1).

 B. In Norway, the meaning of “follower” or “disciple” is “trailer”.

 1. People have been referred to as “unfaithful Christians”. This is ***NOT*** a true statement.

 A. One is either following Christ or ***NOT*** following Christ.

 1. One never stops being God’s Child, **BUT** one can stop being faithful to God.

 C. The word “Christian” is ***NOT*** an adjective describing something, **BUT** a noun.

 1. It is tacked to almost everything today: Christian nation, home, college, church, etc.

 A. “What Christendom needs is some good old Christian Atheism” - J.J. Altizer.

 1. Perhaps, it is about as likely as having *French fried snowballs*.

**2. WHO ARE *NOT* CHRISTIANS?**

 A. Those who are ***NOT*** in the FAMILY of God (the church).

 1. One can wear the name, **BUT** ***NOT*** be entitled to do so.

 A. One can call himself “Smith” while ***NOT*** in the FAMILY.

 2. Many are practicing “*identity theft*” when it comes to this matter.

 B. ***NOT*** all [good] people. Morality is required, **BUT** is ***NOT*** sufficient alone.

 1. Nicodemus was a good man, **BUT** he needed to be born again (Jn 3:5).

 2. Cornelius was a good man, **BUT** he needed to be saved (Ac 10:2, 47, 48).

 C. ***NOT*** all [religious] people (Mt 7:21 – 23).

 1. Simply “joining” a church or attending services does ***NOT*** make one a Christian.

 A. It is the same as entering a garage does ***NOT*** make one an automobile.

**3. WHO ARE CHRISTIANS?**

 A. Wearing the name “American” involves:

 1. The duty of believing the Constitution, practicing democracy, etc.

 A. Those who fail are viewed as being “Un-American”.

 B. Wearing the name Christian involves a life of duty to Christ.

 1. Illustration: If a cat’s tail is called a leg, how many legs does a cat have?

 A. Some say five, **BUT** that is incorrect because the cat still has only four legs.

 1. Calling a tail, a leg, does ***NOT*** change anything.

 B. Neither does calling a person, a Christian, make one to be.

 C. A Christian is something one “*IS*”, ***NOT*** what one “*IS CALLED*”.

**CONCLUSION:**

1. The most important “*question*” at the end of LIFE will ***NOT*** be:

 A. Was he or she rich, handsome/pretty, a great athlete, a scholar, etc…

 1. **BUT**, was he or she a Christian (Mk 8:36, 37)?