

**"IDENTIFYING PRINCIPLES OF TRUE CHRISTIANITY"**  
**1 THESSALONIANS 1:9,10**

**INTRO:** In studying the Word of God we can clearly see many GREAT QUALITIES OF CHRISTIANITY. And everyone that CLAIMS TO BE A CHRISTIAN would do well to **COMPARE WHAT THEY BELIEVE A CHRISTIAN IS, TO WHAT THE WORD OF GOD DESCRIBES A TRUE CHRISTIAN TO BE.** This is important because there are FOUR TYPES OF CHRISTIANS and **ONLY ONE OF THEM IS BIBLICALLY CORRECT:**

- 1) The Traditional Christian: **Because of Family Background.**
- 2) The Cultural Christian: **Because of not being of another "Religion."**
- 3) The Religious Christian: **Because of acting out Christian Rituals.**
- 4) The Biblical Christian: **Because of being Born Again.**

**SO, WHAT KIND OF A CHRISTIAN ARE YOU?**

In the passage before us, 1 Thessalonians 1:9,10, we see **THREE IDENTIFYING PRINCIPLES OF TRUE CHRISTIANITY.** If you consider yourself to be a Christian, please consider these principles so as to determine if YOUR CHRISTIANITY IS **TRUE.**

**I. THE PROCESS OF BECOMING A TRUE CHRISTIAN – Vs. 9**

**"TURNED TO GOD FROM IDOLS TO SERVE THE LIVING AND TRUE GOD"**

**NOTE:** In this text Paul is describing the CONVERSION of the Thessalonians, which in reality, describes what **GENUINE CHRISTIANITY TRULY IS.**

**NOTE:** Years ago, the words "CONVERSION" and "CONVERTED" were used to describe one trusting Christ as Savior. We don't use those words as much anymore, but in reality, they **PROVIDE FOR US A DESCRIPTION OF GENUINE CHRISTIANITY.**

**CONVERSION MEANS: "SOMETHING THAT IS CHANGED FROM ONE FORM TO ANOTHER"**

A. Conversion to Christianity involves **"TURNING TO GOD FROM IDOLS (SIN)."**

**NOTE: "TURNED" = AORIST TENSE = "TURNED ONCE FOR ALL" (A SINGLE ACT)**

1. The PROCESS of becoming a Christian involves REPENTENCE, that is **MAKING A ONCE AND FOR ALL ABOUT FACE TO CHRIST FROM SIN.**

2. The PROCESS of becoming a Christian does not just involve **ADDING JESUS TO WHATEVER ELSE WE BELIEVE.** Becoming a Christian involves **FORSAKING WHAT WE WERE IN ORDER TO FOLLOW CHRIST TOTALLY. NO TRUE REPENTENCE MEANS NO TRUE SALVATION! (Acts 3:19).**

B. Conversion to Christianity involves **"SERVING THE LIVING AND TRUE GOD."**

1. The word "SERVE" is "DOULOS" and means **"SERVING GOD WITH THE IMPOSSIBILITY OF SERVING MAMON, OR ANYTHING ELSE."**

2. The word "SERVE" indicates that the TRUE BIBLICAL CHRISTIAN **SERVES GOD AND GOD ALONE! (LUKE 16:13).**

**NOTE: BECOMING A CHRISTIAN OCCURS WHEN ONE TRULY REPENTS FROM SIN, TURNS TO GOD THROUGH FAITH AND SERVES THE LORD TOTALLY. THIS IS ALL POSSIBLE THROUGH THE WORKING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN OUR LIVES. NOTE 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17.**

ILLUSTRATION:

**II. THE PROSPECT IN BECOMING A TRUE CHRISTIAN – VS. 10a**

**"TO WAIT FOR HIS SON FROM HEAVEN"**

**NOTE:** The word "WAIT" means **"TO EXPECT OR WAIT UP FOR."** It holds the idea of **"BEING READY TO RECEIVE THE ONE WHO IS COMING."**

A. This involves an Expectant Waiting

- The coming of Christ is **IMMINENT...** Meaning **"ABOUT TO HAPPEN."**  
-Titus 2:13; James 5:8

B. This involves an Eager Waiting

- Not being spiritually slothful but being active in the Lord's Work.  
-Luke 19:13; 1 Corinthians 15:58

ILLUSTRATION:

### **III. THE PROVISION BY BECOMING A TRUE CHRISTIAN – VS. 10b**

**“DELIVERED US FROM THE WRATH TO COME”**

NOTE: The word “DELIVERED” is in the Greek PRESENT TENSE meaning that **through faith in Christ believers are BEING DELIVERED FROM THE WRATH TO COME.**

THE POINT: For true believers, **JESUS CHRIST IS ALTOGETHER BRINGING US OUT OF REACH AND EXEMPTING US FROM ANY FUTURE WRATH OF GOD.**

A. Deliverance Through Christ

1. Christ IS our Deliverer
2. Christ HAS Delivered Us
3. Christ IS Delivering Us

B. Deliverance From Wrath

1. The Definition of God's Wrath
  - a. **God's settled opposition to, displeasure with, and judgment against sin.**
  - b. **God's fixed and controlled passionate feeling against sin leading to its inevitable punishment.**
  - c. **God's settled indignation which but nature rests on the sinner.**

NOTE: John 3:36; Ephesians 2:3

2. The Definiteness of God's Wrath

**“THE WRATH TO COME”**

- a. The Wrath of the Great Tribulation Period  
-Jeremiah 30:3; Revelation 6:16,17; 16:1
- b. The Wrath of Hell and the Eternal Lake of Fire  
-2 Thessalonians 1:7-9; Revelation 20:11-15

NOTE: **THE CHURCH, MADE UP OF BORN AGAIN BELIEVERS IN CHRIST, WILL BE DELIVERED FROM GOD'S WRATH TOTALLY – 1 THESSALONIANS 5:9**

ILLUSTRATION:

### **LESSON/APPLICATION**

**TRUE BIBLE BELIEVING, BORN AGAIN CHRISTIANS SERVE GOD TOTALLY, ANTICIPATE CHRIST'S RETURN IMMINENTLY, AND ARE EXEMPT FROM GOD'S WRATH TOTALLY! TO GOD BE THE GLORY!**