

# The Profile of a Christian

Acts 11:19-30

## Introduction:

- A. No name is more honored nor abused than “Christian.”
- B. Our text is the first time Christian is used in the Bible.
  - 1. Believed to be a fulfillment of Isaiah 62:2.
  - 2. Used twice after this (Acts 26:28; 1 Pet. 4:16)
- C. How would you describe a Christian?
- D. A close verse by verse look at our text should help us profile a Christian.

## Discussion:

### I. Verses 19-21

- A. *One that has heard the gospel, believed it and turned to the Lord*
  - 1. Turning involves obedience (Acts 3:19 - {ASV, NIV} with Acts 2:38)
  - 2. Can one be a Christian and not be in Christ? Baptized into Christ (Rom. 6:3)
- B. *One who is unconcerned about who gets credit for good.*
  - 1. What were the names of those who started the Antioch church?
  - 2. Our concern should be that God get the glory? (Cf. 1 Cor. 3:5-7)
- C. *One who talks the Bible (v. 19)*
  - 1. They went “speaking” or talking the word (ASV)
  - 2. We talk about politics, the weather, our work, our neighbors.
  - 3. Seldom talk about the Bible.
- D. *One who is not a quitter (v. 19)*
  - 1. Persecution did not stop those early Christians.
  - 2. Compare to little things that cause “Christians” to quit today.
- E. *One who is indebted to others (v. 20)*
  - 1. What if these had stayed in Jerusalem? No church at Antioch.
  - 2. What if all had been like those in verse 19? – Only Jews would be saved.
  - 3. All are indebted to those who brought them the gospel.
- F. *One who wants to share the gospel. (v. 20)*
  - 1. Acts not only book of conversion, but book of sharing the gospel with the lost.
  - 2. Understand more that what to do to be saved – what it means to be saved.
  - 3. Cannot be a Christian and not want to share gospel with others (cf. Rom 1:14-16).

### II. Verses 23-24

- A. *One with a supreme purpose (“purpose of heart” – cf. Matt. 6:33)*
  - 1. Singleness of heart or purpose (Acts 2:46)
  - 2. Every thing else must serve that purpose.
- B. *One who cleaves to the Lord (v. 23)*
  - 1. Like the marriage relationship (Matt. 19:5).
  - 2. Christians married to the Lord (Rom. 7:1-4)
- C. *One in whom the grace of God can be seen (v. 23; cf. Matt. 5:16).*
- D. *One who is a good person (v. 24)*
  - 1. One can be a good person and not Christian, but not Christian and not be good.
  - 2. A mean person cannot be Christian – if mean to husband, wife, neighbor, etc.

### III. Verse 26-29

- A. *One who assembles (v. 26; cf. Heb. 10:25)*
- B. *One who accepts responsibility (v. 29)*
  - 1. Not as little as can do.
  - 2. But as much as can do – according to ability.
- C. *One who is in the Lord’s church.*
  - 1. None were members of any other church.
  - 2. “Everlasting name” within Lord’s house and walls (Isa. 56:5).
  - 3. Church is God’s house (1 Tim. 3:15) – how many houses does He have?

## Conclusion:

- A. Are you a Christian like those at Antioch?
- B. If not, why not become one now?