

Only Jesus

By Christine Anderson

*Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life.
No one comes to the Father except through me. – John 14:6*

For most of my life I thought I was a Christian. I never questioned whether God existed, I celebrated Christmas and Easter, I prayed before football games, I proudly said "one nation under God," I was married in a church, and I believed that when good people died they were in heaven.

Imagine my surprise when I learned that isn't the definition of a Christian.

I was further shocked when I learned that you aren't a Christian because you go to church. You aren't a Christian because you were baptized, confirmed, or because you have taken communion. You aren't a Christian because you pray or attend Bible study. You aren't a Christian because you memorize Bible verses or because you've read the entire Bible. You aren't a Christian because you went to Christian school or because you were raised in a Christian family. You aren't a Christian because you've gone on a mission trip or served at a homeless shelter. You aren't a Christian because you faithfully give 10% to your church. You aren't even a Christian because you are a pastor or teach Sunday school.

You are a Christian when you believe that Jesus died on the cross paying the penalty for your sins and that through His death on the cross you have been made acceptable to God. That is it. That is a Christian.

Behaving like a Christian doesn't make you a Christian...only faith in Jesus Christ can make you a Christian.

This weekend is Easter. Before you celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, ask yourself: Have I truly put my faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ or am I depending on something else to make me acceptable to God?

For most of my life I thought I was a Christian even though I wasn't. On April 29th, 2000, I put my faith in Jesus Christ and I can now say with certainty that I am a Christian...can you?

*Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life.
No one comes to the Father except through me. – John 14:6*

© Hope in the Lord Ministries. www.hopeintheLord.org. Materials may be reproduced with permission.