

I.

WHAT IT IS TO BE A CHRISTIAN

It is a matter of prime importance before one asks himself if he shall become a Communicant, that he first seek to know if he has become a Christian. Before one considers such a relation to the Church of Christ, he must first determine his relation to Christ. The question which must precede all others pertaining to the church and to church work is this: Am I a Christian?

You ask: "What is it to be a Christian?" We shall answer your question as simply as we can.

To be a Christian is to stand in a certain relation to Christ. A Christian is a Christ one. A man who takes no account of Christ, however good his life may be, cannot be a Christian. He may be a moral man. He may be a church man. He may even be a Bible man. But he cannot be a Christ man. We call those Christians who are followers of Christ and who bear a certain relation to Him. Different words are used in the Bible to set forth this relation. It is to *look* to Him, John 3: 14, 15; it is to *come* to Him, John 5: 40; 6: 37-47; it is to *believe* on Him, Acts 16: 30; it is to *receive* Him, John 1: 12; Rev. 3: 20.

This last word tells us that a Christian is one who receives Christ. He receives Him,—

1. *As Saviour from the guilt and punishment of Sin.* Man needs a Saviour. The fact of sin is indisputable. And God's Word declares, "The soul that sinneth it shall die." Sin cannot go unpunished. It deserves God's wrath and curse. All men are under the curse, "for all have sinned." No man, *of himself*, can escape the punishment due his sin. He cannot merit God's favor and pardon. He cannot atone for his own transgression. Christ has died for sinners. He has made atonement for their sins.