

THE "I AM'S" OF THE CHRISTIAN

**I AM
WHAT I AM**

Text: 1 Corinthians 15:8-11

The fact of who Jesus is demands who His followers, Christians, must be!

- I. I Am What I Am – In Spite Of My Past (1 Cor. 15:8-11)
 - A. Paul never forgot who he was before he became a Christian – a sinner and a persecutor of the church (cf. 1 Tim. 1:15).
 - B. But he did not let his past sins keep him from the work that God had called and chosen him to do.
 - C. His attitude was, "*By the grace of God I am what I am.*"
 - 1. It was God's grace that allowed him to be saved.
 - 2. He would not allow God's grace to have been given to him in vain.
 - 3. He worked harder than others because of his past (cf. Phil. 3:13-14).
 - D. By God's grace, I am what I am – a Christian!
 - E. Because of what I am, there is work that I must do!

- II. I Am What I Am – In Spite Of My Weakness (2 Cor. 12:7-11)
 - A. Paul suffered from a "thorn in the flesh."
 - B. Yet, he did not let this weakness keep him from the work that he was to do.
 - C. God's grace was sufficient; thus, Paul would glory in his infirmities.
 - 1. Through Paul's weakness God revealed His strength.
 - 2. Thus, when Paul was weak, in reality he was strong.
 - D. Paul would use his "weakness" to relate to others in teaching them (cf. 1 Cor. 9:22).
 - E. I am what I am – and I must use all that I am to serve and glorify God!

- III. I Am What I Am – By The Grace Of The "I Am" (Acts 27:23)
 - A. Paul knew who he was because he knew whose he was.
 - B. Thus, Paul could be content with who he was and with what he had (cf. Phil. 4:11-13).
 - C. I AM THAT I AM makes me "I am what I am!"