Gary Westgerdes 313 E. Wayne St. Celina OH 45822

The Daily Standard, Letter to the Editor Dear Editor,

Several Churches in our community have different views on "Becoming a Christian" and I hope I can share mine and keep it simple.

Jesus told the Apostles not to prevent the children from coming to Him because such is the kingdom of God. When a person or child comes to the age of understanding the difference between right and wrong, punishment and forgiveness they are able to of their own free will to "Become a Christian". We as people know that if we are consistent with our obedience, discipline and forgiveness life is much easier for everybody: parents-children, schools, communities, work places, law enforcement-prisons etc. God is perfect and all His ways are just He is consistent with His expectations of obedience, discipline and forgiveness.

God loves us and doesn't want anyone to perish. He is all knowing, He works on our hearts trying to lead us into reading His Word so that we can grow in the knowledge of Him. He may do this by allowing or bringing trials, near death experiences, witnesses, job losses etc. so that we don't focus on worldly pleasures and hopes. As people read or hear God's Word He convicts them of their sin, at this point some people stop listening or reading – they may be fearful, not willing to acknowledge their guilt or give up their sin – but God's Word says that if we seek Him with all our hearts we will find Him.

As God convicts you of your sin and the punishment of hell, humble yourselves and confess and turn from your sin. Keep reading the Bible because next God will reveal to you the joy of the truth of His forgiveness and salvation because the penalty of your sin has been paid for. God's Son, the Lord Jesus Christ (fully God and fully Man), has through His sinless life suffering/death, burial & resurrection; defeated sin and death and now through faith in Jesus and His shed blood you can have forgiveness of sin, everlasting life and the indwelling Spirit of God who seals you, as His child, to walk like Jesus – you have "Become a Christian" (Jesus has given His life for you – you must give your life to Him).

God says that it is impossible to please Him without faith so the person seeking Him must believe that He is and that He rewards those who diligently seek Him.

Are you a Christian? Confirm or Begin your journey today – read God's Word. "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him" 1 Corinthians 2:9.

Gary Westgerdes Celina Oh