

Not Every One
(Part 2 of 4)

Apart from believing in Jesus no one will get to heaven. Absolutely no one! It was Jesus who said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6). Acts chapter 4 and verse 12 says, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

There is no hope of heaven for those who do not believe the gospel. No gospel, no salvation. No Christ, no salvation. No understanding of the cross, no salvation. No understanding of the resurrection, no salvation. But the shock in our text is that many who call Jesus Lord will be sent by God to an eternal hell. These people had never been saved. They were living under a delusion. Jesus said to them in verse 23, "I never knew you." They never were true believers. This is a critical passage in a day when so many people call themselves Christians. We must understand that Jesus never claimed to be one of many ways to God. He claimed to be the only way to God. And if you go to heaven Jesus is your only hope of getting there.

Romans 10:9 says, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."

Confessing Jesus as Lord means that you submit your life to His authority. You believe that He is God, and believing that He is God you are willing to obey Him – you now are willing to live under His authority – you now agree with God that you are sinner – you now confess your sins to Him – you now repent of sin – you now make a conscious choice to turn from sin and pursue righteousness – you now accept the historical fact of Christ's resurrection.

This is salvation. It isn't enough to believe certain facts about Christ. Even Satan and his demons believe in the true God (James 2:19), but they don't love and obey Him. Their faith is not saving faith, their faith is not genuine.

True saving faith always responds in obedience. Turning from sin and turning to Christ. In one of Paul's points of commendation of the Thessalonians, the apostle said, "So that ye were ensamples to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia. For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad; so that we need not speak any thing. For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true

God” (I Thessalonians 1:7-9). Note the phrase that I underlined. Read it a few times until it becomes clear in your mind.

The subject in that phrase is salvation. The Thessalonians were saved by turning “to God” which shows that they saw their need as sinners – they need God and now they know that. Now they “turned to God from idols” which speaks of their present lifestyle. They turned “to” and at the same time, they turned “from” their present lifestyle. Turning “to” and turning “from” shows a change – it shows repentance. And this repentance created in them a desire “to serve the living and true God.”

Jesus is the sovereign Lord and true saving faith always desires to obey Him. And in obeying Jesus you are acknowledging His lordship and submitting to His authority. The religious people in Matthew 7 had done none of this. Their faith, as we will discover next time, was not saving faith.

In our next lesson (Part Three) we will examine the text.

Text: Matthew 7:21-23

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