

Prayer:

Slide # 1

Theme: *Christ the King*

Outline:

Chps. 1-2 The Advent of the King. (Proving His LEGAL right to the throne by His genealogy.)

Chp. 3 The Forerunner of the King and the King’s baptism.

Chp. 4 The Test of the King. (Proving His MORAL right to the throne by not yielding to temptation; and exhibiting His kingdom resume.)

Chps. 5-7 The Pronouncements of the King. (Proving His JUDICIAL right to the throne as seen in the wisdom of His kingdom teaching.)

Chps. 8-10 The Power of the King. (Proving His PROPHETICAL right to the throne by fulfilling prophecy.)

Chps. 11-12 The Rejection of the King.

Chp. 13 The Parables of the King.

Chps. 14-16 The Revelations of the King.

Chps. 17-20 The Instructions of the King.

Chps. 21-23 Formal Rejection of the King.

Chps. 24-25 The Predictions of the King.

Chps. 26-27 The Passion of the King.

Chp. 28 The Resurrection of the King.

In Matthew 4 Christ came calling for repentance because He was presenting the kingdom and the only way to enter into the kingdom is through repentance (cf. Matt. 4:17). In Matthew 5-7 Christ shows how His kingdom people should then live. Those who are truly repentant will be characterized in this way – certainly to some degree.

Christ made a major distinction between the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees which was outward and legalistic in nature, in contrast to the inside out righteousness of His true followers who will enter the kingdom.

Slide # 2

Matthew 5:20 (NKJV)

20 For I say to you, that unless **your righteousness** exceeds the **righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees**, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

You see repentance is a matter of the heart that affects how one lives. The righteousness of the Pharisees was all about an outward façade and was hypocritical. The righteousness that will enter the kingdom is based on true repentance and is demonstrated in changed lives as illustrated in the kingdom standard presented by Christ in the Sermon on the Mount.

Having finished the formal sermon at Matthew 7:12 Christ then gave a series of four warnings to those who heard His words. It's not enough to merely hear Christ's words, one must make a life-changing commitment to Christ that results in living this way.

Slide # 3

Matt. 7:13-27 – FOUR WARNINGS

- Two ways (vv. 13-14).
- Two trees (vv. 15-20).
- **Two professions (vv. 21-23).**
- Two builders (vv. 24-27).

Last time we saw that Christ warned of false prophets who deceptively come in sheep's clothing but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. False prophets have an errant message! They claim it is from God, but it is not.

The message is all important because if the message is WRONG the spiritual welfare of the people is in jeopardy. People can only get saved by believing the right message – the true gospel. Therefore, it is imperative that false prophets be identified and not followed.

False prophets have a SELF-agenda – a SELF-serving agenda! Their appearance is deceptive, but Christ said we would know them by their SELF-ORIENTED fruits. Their fruits are seen in their character, their creed, and their conduct. And Jesus said invariably good trees bear good fruit and bad trees bear bad fruit. What comes out in the life reveals the truth about a person. Christ concluded: “**Therefore by their fruits you will know them.**” This principle is universal!

Building on the reality that the fruit of the tree reveals the nature of the tree (that is of the person), Christ now shows that mere profession that is not matched by a changed life is a LIE!

Matthew 7:21-23 has been called “***the scariest text***” in the Bible. It is so scary because these people actually think they know the Lord. They actually think they are serving the Lord. Such is the nature of self-deception. It is a powerful thing. Of course, had they really been honest with themselves they would have seen they were nothing but religious HYPOCRITES as seen in their practice of “lawlessness”.

When people live double lives or lives that are very inconsistent with the truth as some of the Corinthians were doing it is legitimate to ask whether the person has ever truly been regenerated. Do they really know Christ? Does He really live in them?

Slide # 4

2 Corinthians 13:5 (NKJV)

5 Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified.

Genuine believers have the Spirit of Christ living in them and that is a life changing reality! This is the ultimate test (cf. Rom. 8:9).

Today in our text Christ addresses the issue of a FALSE PROFESSION. False prophets and false professions go together. The one builds on the other.

Matthew 7:21 (NKJV)

21 “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.

Don’t be naive. Not all who INTENSELY profess Christ as Lord are saved. These people are emphatic about it. They call Jesus “***Lord, Lord***”. It is repeated for emphasis! They are really into it. Emotionally they come off as the most sold out! They got their hands up in supposed worship, they are screaming and shouting, they carry on with passion emphasizing Jesus is their Lord!

Just one problem. It’s all a SHOW! They say the right thing, but it is not real in their hearts! They say the right thing, but Jesus is not really their Lord! It’s not enough to profess Jesus is Lord, it must be real in the heart. The difference is made in the heart.

The oldest creed in the Christian Church is “**Jesus is Lord!**” It’s a matter of true faith. We recognize Jesus as Lord God Almighty! He is our Lord and Savior! And it must be personal!

Slide # 5

1 Corinthians 12:3 (NKJV)

3 Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and **no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit.**

Anyone can say it with their lips, and as Jesus points out in Matt. 7:21 many will say it emphatically on judgment day only to have Jesus tell them it’s all BOGUS – He was never their Lord. They were just merely professors who say the right thing.

Saying Jesus is Lord by the Holy Spirit (and that is key) is to mean it! This is different than an empty profession of faith.

Slide # 6

Romans 10:9–10 (NKJV)

9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.
10 For with the **heart one believes unto righteousness**, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

It is with the HEART that one truly believes and then the mouth tells on the heart. What is in the heart comes out of the mouth (cf. Mt. 12:34).

Slide # 7

Romans 10:13 (NKJV)

13 For “whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.”

To call on the name of the Lord is different than merely calling Jesus Lord. Calling on His name is recognition of Who He is as Lord. Merely mouthing the words means nothing. Anyone can do that! Truly calling on Him (recognizing Him) as Lord is a matter of the heart as Paul has just emphasized in verses 9-10.

We call John's gospel the gospel of belief. John emphasizes believing on Christ some 90 times in the book. The most famous verse in the world is found there in John 3:16.

John 3:16 (NKJV)

16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

But throughout the book John qualifies what he means by believing. It's not merely enough to believe ABOUT Jesus, its not enough to merely profess to believe. It must be personal. As the book builds to the climax of Christ's death and resurrection we have the account of doubting Thomas coming to a full New Testament faith.

Thomas had said he would not believe in the risen Christ unless he personally saw Him for himself. Well, a few days later the risen Christ appeared to Thomas and here is what happened.

Slide # 8

John 20:28–29 (NKJV)

28 And Thomas answered and said to Him, **“My Lord and my God!”**
29 Jesus said to him, “Thomas, because **you have seen Me, you have believed.** Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

This is what it means to believe on Jesus. It personally recognizes Him as Lord/God. As Thomas said, ***“My Lord and my God!”*** This is what it means to truly believe on Christ. We believe in Him as our Savior Who died for all our sins; we believe in Him as our Lord/God as proven in the resurrection.

Faith in Christ as Savior and Lord defines all true believers who are part of God's forever family called the Church.

Slide # 9

1 Corinthians 1:2 (NKJV)

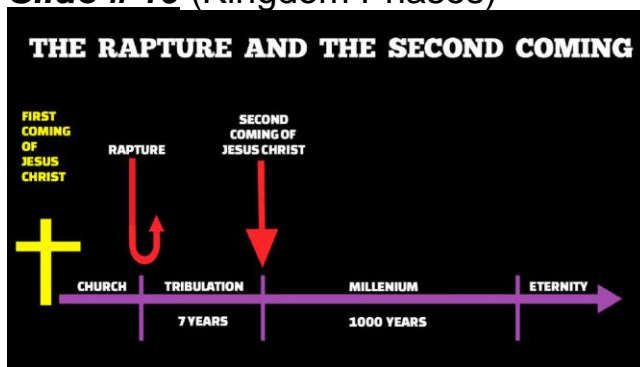
2 To the **church of God** which is at Corinth, to those who are **sanctified** in Christ Jesus, called to be **saints**, with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ **our Lord**, both theirs and ours:

All true Christians recognize Jesus as Lord – their personal Lord and Savior. But not all who call Jesus Lord mean it. Not all professors are truly saved. Some are playing a deadly serious game.

Not everyone who says “**Lord, Lord**” to Jesus will enter the kingdom of heaven. Sometimes the gospels say “*kingdom of God*” and sometimes “*kingdom of heaven*”. These two phrases are used interchangeably and ultimately refer to the coming Messianic kingdom.

The idea of “**the kingdom of heaven**” is the rule of heaven which is to say the rule of God. But this kingdom rule will be through the Messiah when Jesus sets up His kingdom on earth for 1000 years (what we call the millennial kingdom) which will then transition into the eternal phase of the kingdom.

Slide # 10 (Kingdom Phases)



So if mere professors aren't going in – who is? Well, Christ says not everyone who says “Lord, Lord” will enter the kingdom, but rather “**he who does the will of My Father in heaven.**”

Now we know that the NT clearly teaches we are not saved by works.

Slide # 11

Ephesians 2:8–9 (NKJV)

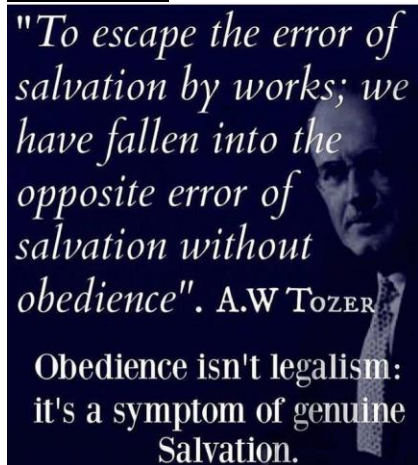
8 For by **grace** you have been saved through **faith**, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,

9 **not of works**, lest anyone should boast.

So if we are saved by FAITH and not by works what is Christ saying when He says those who enter the kingdom will be those who do the will of the Father?

Christ is emphasizing the FRUIT of true repentance and faith. He is emphasizing that a good tree brings forth good fruit. We are not saved by the fruit, but if we are saved we will bear good fruit.

Side # 12



The root is FAITH – the FRUIT is the works. As the Reformers said, ***“We are saved by faith alone, but the faith that saves does not remain alone.”***

True repentance is expected to show in the life. That is Christ’s point. What is the will of the Father in this context? Well, the will of the Father is that people accept the Son – that they BELIEVE on the Lord Jesus Christ. Christ will go on to say in verse 24, *“Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man...”*.

In John 18:36 Jesus said He came to bear witness to the truth and then said, *“Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.”*

Slide # 13

John 1:11–13 (NKJV)

11 He came to His own, and His own **did not receive Him**.

12 But as many as **received Him**, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who **believe in His name**:

13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

Slide # 14

John 6:38–40 (NKJV)

38 For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.

39 This is the **will of the Father** who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day.

40 And this is **the will of Him who sent Me**, that everyone who sees the Son and **believes in Him** may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.”

Doing the will of the Father starts with believing on the Son! It all starts there. And frankly this believing is itself an act of obedience called “***the obedience of faith***”. Obeying the Father starts with obeying the command to believe on the Son (cf. 1 Jn. 5:9-13).

Slide # 15

Romans 1:5 (NKJV)

5 Through Him we have received grace and apostleship **for obedience to the faith** among all nations for His name,

Romans 16:26 (NKJV)

26 [the gospel]...now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, **for obedience to the faith**—

The gospel is the message of both the Person of Christ and the Work of Christ – WHO He is and WHAT He has done to save us. He is Lord/God and He is Savior. This gospel message demands a response – an **obedience of faith** response from the heart.

Slide # 16

2 Thessalonians 1:8–9 (NKJV)

8 in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who **do not obey the gospel** of our Lord Jesus Christ.

9 These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,

One of the KEY problems – one of the MAJOR errors in an “Easy Believism” gospel is that no response of obedience is required. You don’t need to repent. You don’t need to accept Christ as Lord. You supposedly just passively accept Jesus as Savior, get a little fire insurance, and it never has to change your life. In true conversion a radical change of mind takes place that is called repentance. We admit our sin problem, we obediently acknowledge Christ as personal Savior and personal Lord. That is a life changing reality!

John wrote the gospel of belief but he also wrote 1 John which presents a series of TESTS to distinguish between true faith and bogus faith. And one of the tests is the OBEDIENCE test.

Slide # 17

1 John 2:3–4 (NKJV)

3 Now by this we know that we know Him, **if we keep His commandments.**

4 He who says, “I know Him,” and **does not keep His commandments, is a liar,** and the truth is not in him.

Yes, we are saved by faith ALONE, but if the faith is real it will show in the life. We will obey Christ. We will certainly desire to obey Him even if we are inconsistent in the process -which we all are.

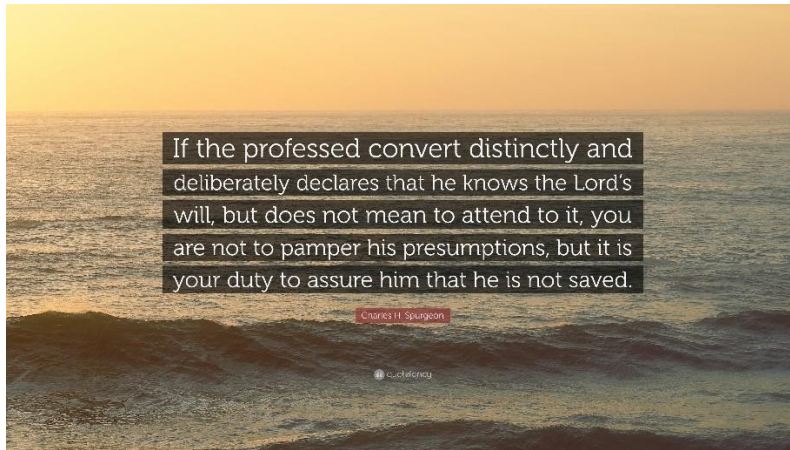
Many are comfortable living sinful lives while hiding behind a teaching that is not biblical – comfortable going to hell on a false teaching. It is one thing to acknowledge that Christians have carnal outbreaks. It is another thing altogether to teach that someone whose life is predominately carnal should be considered a Christian. ... We do not always know who has been born again. Therefore, when speaking of the backslider, two errors must be avoided: (1) insisting that he is not a Christian; (2) insisting that he is a Christian. We do not know, we cannot know. And it is not a sin not to know. – ***Ernest C. Reisinger***

However, the point Christ is emphatically making is that those that truly know God will demonstrate that in the life – not perfectly but certainly. This is the same point Christ made in verses 17-18 where he said every good tree brings forth good fruit and likewise every bad tree brings forth bad fruit.

Faith in Christ changes a person – it changes the whole trajectory of their life. Christ is basically saying, “***If your profession hasn’t changed your life – then you are not saved.***” If Christ is merely “Lord” on the lips but not in the life, then you are not headed for the kingdom.

Some who say, “Lord Lord” will enter the kingdom, but it will be those who truly know Him as Lord and it shows in their life in doing the will of the Father (cf. Ja. 1:22-25; 2:14-20, 26).

Slide # 18



And Jesus was very consistent in this emphasis.

Slide # 19

Matthew 12:50 (NKJV)

50 For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother.”

“***Does the will of My Father***” is in the present tense indicating this is a pattern of life. Lifestyle obedience is what characterizes those who truly know God.

I remember years ago teaching through John and its strong emphasis on believing. When I got to John 5:28-29 one dear lady just could the “doing” emphasis matched up with the emphasis “belief” theme of the book.

Slide # 20

John 5:28–29 (NKJV)

28 Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice

29 and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.

You see on the face of it this sounds like salvation by works. Those that enter into the resurrection of life have done good; those who do evil have the resurrection of condemnation.

But Jesus is consistent! We are saved by faith alone, but it must be THE RIGHT KIND of faith. It must be a life-changing faith. This kind of faith bears good fruit in the life and hence will experience the resurrection of life.

This principle does not mean that salvation in the kingdom is secured by works, but it does teach that works are the fruits, or evidences, which are found in a true disciples. – **John Walvoord**

Note: In Christ saying “**My Father**” He strongly implies His divine Sonship. Having God as His Father indicates they share the same nature – a divine nature. When Jesus called God His Father the Jews assumed (correctly so) that Jesus was making Himself equal in nature to God the Father.

Slide # 21

John 5:17–18 (NKJV)

17 But Jesus answered them, “**My Father** has been working until now, and I have been working.”

18 Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also **said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God.**

All the way through here there is a strong emphasis on the GODSHIP of Christ. He is called “**Lord Lord**”; He refers to God as “**My Father**” and He has the power to **judge** for eternity as seen in verse 23 which is the prerogative of deity alone. It is this one they dared to name as “Lord Lord” without any heart reality to it.

22 Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’

One of the most troubling things about this verse is the word “**Many**”. Many are in this category. These are “Church” people. They are people who claim to be serving the Lord. And they are active doing all kinds of things. These were not fringe people, they were very involved, and their supposed ministry was all done in Jesus’ NAME. They were supposedly doing it for Jesus! Note THREE times the emphasis of “in Your name”.

This is scary stuff!

“**In that day**” refers to the coming judgment day when they will give account to Jesus. This is not the believer’s judgment because the next verse shows these people are not true believers.

There is a judgment for believers in which our works will be evaluated in terms of the reward we are to receive. But in view here is the unbeliever’s judgment.

Once again in verse 22 we have the emphasis on them saying to Christ “**Lord, Lord**”. The word Lord (Gk. *kurios*) essentially means “**master**” (cf. Eph. 6:5). It denotes a superior and consistently has authority in view which calls for obedience. It was sometimes used as polite address, but when used of the risen Lord it always denotes His authority as God. He is the **God-Master**.

Slide # 22

Luke 6:46 (NKJV)

46 “But why do you call Me ‘**Lord, Lord,**’ and **not do the things which I say?**”

To call Jesus Lord is to acknowledge His sovereign authority over you. To not obey Him is a non sequitur. “**No Lord**” is a contradiction in terms.

These people call Jesus God-Master and on judgment day and it seems here like they will do so in a pleading manner as if to indicate with passion and sincerity that it is really true (cf. Lk. 13:25-27). And they seek to make their case by emphasizing all the things they did in Christ’s name – which is to say for His sake.

Slide # 23

- Prophecy
- Casting out Demons
- Signs and Wonders

If I was to ask you what category of “Christendom” does this characterize – what would you say? This has the “Charismatic Movement” written all over it. Now I am not saying there are no believers in the movement – because there are. But in truth the Charismatic movement in relationship to modern Christianity in my view has brought forth more false teachers and more aberrant teaching than any other sect – other than outright cults. Massive amounts of people are misled – tragically misled.

They tend to think they are more spiritual because after all God supposedly prophetically speaks to them. They claim to have the gift of prophecy. And right there is their MAJOR downfall. Once you start claiming to have additional revelation outside the Bible it spells disaster. It spells blasphemy, it spells deception, and it spells demonic activity on a high order. This is most serious. Note the flow of emphasis here.

In Matt. 7:15 Christ said “**Beware of false prophets**” and now here in verse 22 He says, “**Many**” will claim they had the gift of prophecy and used it for Christ. The claim to “prophecy” is the gateway error to much false teaching in Charismania.

One of the great problems with the Charismatic movement is that it puts little emphasis on knowledge. It’s not about studious study and sound doctrine. It’s more about experience and feelings. And that leads to all kinds of error.

There are a few things to note about the gift of prophecy in the Bible. Prophecy always refers to receiving direct revelation from God. True prophets in the Bible when they spoke in the name of the Lord were never wrong because their message came directly from God and God is never wrong. This is one of the key tests of a prophet. Is he ever wrong? In the OT if he was wrong he was to be stoned as a false prophet (cf. Deut. 18:20). Today many modern-day Charismatics want to claim there is such a thing as “*errant prophecy*” but there are still some nuggets of truth in it. That is foreign to Scripture and BOGUS! Note these points...

Slide # 24

1) Peter tied the beginning of New Testament Prophecy (Acts 2:17-21) to the prophetic phenomena in the Old Testament (Joel 2:28-32). This establishes a fundamental continuity between the nature of Old and New Testament prophecy. Hence, the early Church judged genuine prophecy according to Old Testament prophetic standards already in place.

2) Prophecy in the Bible was always a miraculous/supernatural event (cf. Acts 11:28; 13:11; 20:23, 25; 21:10-11; 27:22).

3) N.T. prophets served alongside the apostles in being channels of the “mysteries” of God (cf. Eph. 3:2-5). They (along with Christ) laid the revelatory foundation for the Church Age (Eph. 2:20). A foundation once laid is complete.

Slide # 25

4) Prophecy was direct fresh revelation while teaching and preaching are based on previously existing revelation.

5) OT prophecy ceased, and the OT canon was complete. In like manner NT prophecy ceased with the apostles and prophets and the NT canon was complete.

6) Immediately after the apostolic era the early Church fathers put a strong emphasis on apostolic doctrine as found in the N.T. rather than heeding “prophetic voices”. (cf. Ignatius in about A.D. 113 and Polycarp in about A.D. 155).

7) The Muratorian Document from around A.D. 170 contains the oldest listing of canonically recognized books of the New Testament. “It refers to both apostles and prophets, stating explicitly that the number of prophets ‘is complete’ and thereby indicating an end to prophetic expression.” (F. David Farnell – emphasis mine)

A little history lesson:

In the early 2nd century right after the time of the apostles the early church faced a “**prophetic crisis**”. A movement developed in many respects was very similar to the modern day Charismatic movement. Initially it spread fast and far. It was called “***New Prophecy***” or “***Montanism***”. The early Church rejected it because as it was labeled it claimed to bring forth “***new***” revelation.

Thus the early Church labeled Montanism as an unbiblical and refuted it but it involved quite a process. Chrysostom, an early church father (c. A.D. 347-407) said, “*This whole place is very obscure: but the obscurity is produced by our ignorance of the facts referred to by their cessation, being such as used to occur but now no longer take place.*”

After the demise of Montanism, prophetic phenomena largely vanished from the pages of Church history until all the sudden in the early 1900’s there was a supposed outbreak of prophetic activity that gave birth to the Pentecostal movement – which gave birth to the more ecumenical Charismatic movement, which gave birth to the Vineyard and Signs and Wonders movements, which gave birth to the contemporary New Apostolic Reformation movement.

But in truth all these “NEW” movements just continue to bring forth old error – namely the claim of additional new prophetic revelation which all fits under the heading of false prophecy.

The Charismatic movement is very “showy” claiming all manner of supernatural phenomenon. Not only do they champion supposed prophecy but also claim to be able to cast out demons. Throwing themselves around in the spiritual realm as they speak arrogantly in reference to demons (Jude 8-9).

Slide # 26**2 Peter 2:10–11 (NKJV)**

10 and especially those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and **despise authority**. They are **presumptuous, self-willed**. They are **not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries**, [angelic beings – demons]

11 whereas angels [holy angels], who are greater in power and might, do not bring a reviling accusation against them before the Lord.

Many Charismatic leaders claim to bind Satan and demons. However, only God can do this. Only He can bind the strong man as taught by Jesus in Mark 12:29. When people wildly claim to have power over the devil and demons we should remember Jude 9 which says that even Michael the archangel dared not revile the devil but simply said, *“The Lord rebuke you!”*

To throw words around wildly, recklessly and arrogantly in the spiritual realm is a mark of false teachers - not sound Bible teachers. Many on judgment day will have claimed to have done this only to find out they never even really knew Christ.

And they will claim to have **“done many wonders”** in Christ’s name. They really thought they were doing great things. The word **“wonders”** is the Greek word **“dunamis”** from which we get the word dynamite. It is the idea of **“powers”**. These people claimed to have had a spiritual “powers” ministry related to special miraculous power.

The problem is Satan is a great counterfeiter. Not all “miracles” are from God. In discussing last days apostasy and how *“evil men and imposters will grow worse and worse”* Paul mentions the occult magicians in Pharaoh’s court and how in the last days we will have people on the scene just like this (cf. 2 Tim. 3:8-13). These magicians had actual spiritual power – but it was from the devil (cf. Ex. 7:10-12; 2 Thess. 2:9-10). The NT warns of an end-time occult invasion the likes of which I think we are witnessing even today (cf. 2 Thess. 2:8-11; 1 Tim. 4:1-3; 2 Tim. 4:1-4; 1 Jn. 4:1-3).

Claiming to be able to prophesy, claiming a deliverance ministry, and claiming to have a signs and wonders ministry is no evidence of salvation. In fact, here Christ uses it as an illustration of FALSE professors who in the end will find out they never really even knew Jesus at all. They were all about an outward SHOW characteristic of “false prophets”. Yes, they may have tapped into some kind of spiritual power, but it was not from God.

By the way people who don't know their Bible very well are very susceptible to this movement. They quote enough verses out of context to confuse people. They come off so emotionally convincing. They spout the name of Jesus without end. And they "testify" as they tell story upon story! And yet they are phony as can be.

Again, there are some in the movement that are saved and there are differing degrees of error. So, I am generalizing, the in general the movement has huge amounts of error because it claims the apostolic sign gifts are operative when in fact they are not. If you think God is giving new revelation and you think you are tapping into sign gifts it gives you a whole different type of "theology" than what you have if you truly follow sound doctrine which limits revelation to the canon of established Scripture.

Costi Hinn is the nephew of the famous Benny Hinn who claims to be a faith healer and worker of signs and wonders. Costi use to work for Benny but then was glorious saved out of it. He has been involved in the writing of two books to refute this movement. Costi and Anthony Wood co-authored the book "***Defining Deception***" with the subtitle "*Freeing The Church From the Mystical-Miracle Movement*". And then Costi wrote: "**GOD, GREED, AND THE (PROSPERITY) GOSPEL.**"

In the book "Defining Deception" they write: "***This in no way means that God ceases to do miracles in the church today, but that these are not normative or given as signs to confirm the Gospel of Jesus Christ.***" (p. 7). Yes, God works mightily and miraculously sometimes as we pray. But the sign-gifts operative in the early Church have ceased. Hinn and Wood say, "***Experience never defines biblical truth. The truth found in Scripture must always define our experience.***" Exactly!

False teachers specialize in telling stories – BIG stories – MIRACULOUS stories, but actual Bible teaching in context is virtually nil. Their teaching while claiming all kinds of miraculous stuff is actually very man-centered and caters to the flesh – what can God do for you – health, wealth, and prosperity. And it often makes God a puppet if you just do the right thing He will magically perform for you. After all it is all about you – right?

Out of this movement comes things like *Kingdom Now Theology*, *Dominion Theology*, trips to heaven and hell, weird spiritual experiences such as slain in the Spirit which has no backing in Scripture at all. Again, when a person buys into extra-biblical prophecy it can lead anywhere. That is very dangerous!

Note neither WORDS “Lord, Lord” (v. 21) nor WORKS “prophesying, casting out demons, doing many wonders” (v. 22) can save you. It doesn’t matter what you say or do its not enough to get you to heaven. What is needed is TRUE life changing repentance and faith.

23 And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’

Jesus also has something to say and He speaks with ultimate authority as the final Judge of all. This again is indicative of Him being God as only God is the final Judge of all (cf. Jn. 5:22-23).

Jesus in that final day of judgment will say to these phony professors “*I never knew you*”. To know (Gk. ginosko) refers to a deep, intimate, relational knowledge (cf. Lk. 1:34; Jn. 17:3). Relationally, Jesus NEVER knew them as Lord! That is the whole context! Notice He NEVER knew them. It’s not that they were once saved and then lost their salvation. Rather it is that they were NEVER truly saved. They NEVER really knew Christ as Lord although they professed it very loudly. Just like Judas they lived a lie!

Lordlessness and lawlessness go together. This is the great issue here. They did not know Jesus as Lord and it showed in their practice of lawlessness. This is one of the greatest “Lordship” texts in all the New Testament and there are many. The “Lordless Gospel” that says you can accept Christ as Savior while rejecting Him as Lord is totally foreign to Scripture. “*When a half truth is presented as the whole truth, it becomes an untruth.*” (Walter Chantry)

The Apostles preached the LORDSHIP of Christ. In the book of Acts “Savior” occurs only **twice** as found in Acts 5:31, and 13:23; but “Lord” is mentioned **92 times**. In the NT Jesus is called “Lord” **822 times**, “Lord Jesus” **22 times**, and “Lord Jesus Christ” **81 times**. The word Savior is used only **24 times** (eight of which refer to God the Father as Savior). To think that you can divorce Christ being Savior from Him being Lord is to miss the entire thrust of NT teaching. Lord and Savior cannot be separated.

Slide # 27 “We cannot know Christ any other way than as Lord.” – John MacArthur



Notice in reality these people practiced “lawlessness”. In theology we call this *antinomianism* which simply means “**without law**”. Now it is true that we are no longer under the Law of Moses, but as true believers we are under the Law of Christ (cf. Gal. 6:2). We are under the law of His Lordship – we recognize Him as our God-Master and that changes our lives. It’s not a matter of works, but rather a matter of a faith that works. Paul refers to unbelievers as “**the sons of disobedience**” (Eph. 2:2; 5:6; Col. 3:6). This is what defines them.

The essence of sin is SELF-RULE. It is capsulized in Isa 53:6 where it says, “**All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way...**”. We have all gone our own way. That is the essence of sin. 1 John 3:4 says, “**sin is lawlessness**”. Vines Expository Dictionary says lawlessness is “**the displacement of the will of God with the will of self.**” Therefore sin is the essence of self-will or self-rule. It’s a LORDSHIP issue. Will I rule my life as my own Lord or will I bow in submission to the truth of “**Jesus is Lord**”. This is the very nature of true repentance involved in saving faith!

Slide # 28

Jude 3–4 (NKJV)

3 Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to **contend earnestly for the faith** which was once for all delivered to the saints.

4 For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who **turn the grace** of our God into lewdness and **deny** the only **Lord** God and our **Lord** Jesus Christ.

Contending for the faith in this context is a LORDSHIP issue. These people claim GRACE, but they pervert it into a lawless concept. They use GRACE as a license to sin and in doing so they deny the LORDSHIP of Christ. The rest of the NT is totally consistent with what Christ is saying here.

Slide # 29

1 Corinthians 6:9 (NKJV)

9 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? **Do not be deceived**. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites,

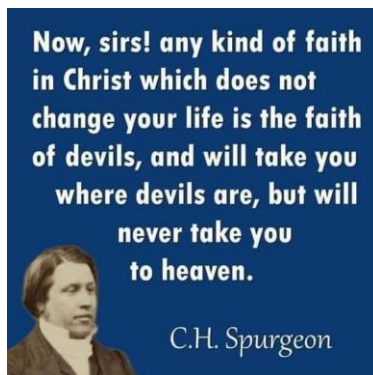
1 John 3:7–8 (NKJV)

7 Little children, **let no one deceive you**. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous.

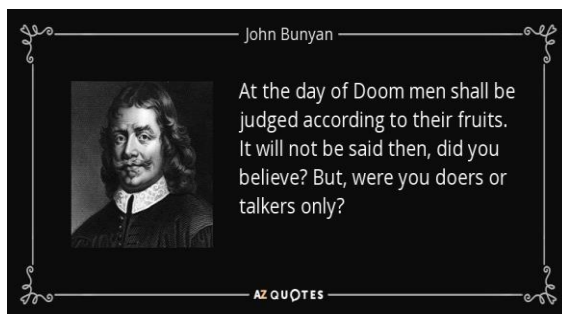
8 He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

We are saved by FAITH ALONE, but it must be the right kind of faith. A true saving faith has the fruit of doing the Father's will as a pattern of life.

Slide # 30



Slide # 31



Not everyone who says “Lord, Lord” will enter into the kingdom, rather it is those who truly KNOW Him as Lord and Savior as demonstrated in the life that will enter in. Be among them.

The Bible says, “*Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved*”. Do you know Him as Savior and Lord? As your Savior He died for all your sins, as Lord God Almighty He rose again. Salvation PERSONALLY receives Him by faith as “my Savior and my Lord”. Have you done that?

“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved”.