

THE RIGHT KIND OF FAITH (Saying It's So Doesn't Make It So)

The Scariest Verses in the Bible – Matthew 7:21-23

Matthew 7:21-23 (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.

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?**’

23 “And then I will declare to them, ‘**I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!**’ (emphasis mine)

These verses have been dubbed the “scariest verses” in the Bible. What could be a more terrifying reality than to think you are going to heaven, only to find yourself thrust from the presence of the Lord for all eternity. Sadly, Jesus says this will be the experience of “MANY”!

These people had the RIGHT profession. They say “Lord, Lord”! Note the double emphasis on “Lord”. This is essentially about LORDSHIP! They claim Jesus as Lord, but their practice of lawlessness contradicts their profession. In reality, Jesus is not their Lord, even though with great emphasis, they SAY that He is. Those who are truly saved genuinely do know Jesus as Lord as evidenced in the fact that they **do the will of the Father**. The word “Lord” when spoken in faith of Christ, refers to Him as Master or Sovereign. It recognizes His sovereign authority as Deity. Doing the will of God is a LORDSHIP concept!

Luke 6:46 (NKJV) “But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do the things which I say?”

A true saving faith recognizes Christ as LORD!

Romans 10:13 (NKJV) For “whoever calls on the name of the **LORD** shall be saved.” (emphasis mine)

To call on Jesus as Lord is certainly to recognize Him as such! It is not enough to simply SAY it, rather it must be real in the HEART (cf. Rom. 10:9-10). What is real in the heart, will then be demonstrated in the life, not

in terms of perfection, but in terms of DIRECTION. Recognition of Christ as Lord alters the course of one's life! As believers, we are PERFECTED in terms of our POSITION in Christ, but in terms of our PRACTICE, we are in PROCESS (cf. Heb. 10:14). The point is true believers are in the process of being sanctified.

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.

Part of the reason Matthew 7:21-23 is so "scary" is because these people not only professed Christ as Lord, but their activity, on the surface, seemed to back it up. They are religious and involved in religious activity, all supposedly in Jesus' name.

Strangely enough, their resume of "ministry" activity (prophecy, casting out demons, doing many wonders/miracles) is very similar to many in our day who very forcefully boast of charismatic gifting. Many in this category tend to be "showy" in their profession of Christianity, and yet live a double life that contradicts the very reality of Christ's LORDSHIP.

Jesus is not impressed with outward SHOW. One day He will say to mere professors of whatever stripe, "I never knew you". He NEVER knew them! They never had a genuine relationship with Him as Lord. They did not lose their salvation. They never had it. Their real motivation was not centered in Christ's LORDSHIP, but rather in self-orientation and rebellion. They "use" Jesus, but don't know Him!

One of the truly great scandals in the "evangelical" church has been the development of a theology that says you can know Jesus as Savior, while at the same time rejecting Him as Lord. This is patently false. If Jesus is not Lord, He cannot be Savior! To believe on the Lord Jesus is to believe on Him as Lord and Savior! Only this is saving faith! What is proper "LORDSHIP SALVATION" teaching? It is that which Jesus spelled out in Matt. 7:21-23!