

Warning: Self-Deception!

Matthew 7:21-25



Big Idea: God will judge everyone; so, check your salvation and live confidently.

²¹ "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²² On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' ²³ And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.' (Mat 7:21-23 ESV).

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2. Focus on relationship, not religion (vv. 22-23).

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⁴⁶ "Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you?" (Luke 6:46)

Is your confession a contradiction?

- i. They say the right things (Rom 10:9).
- ii. They Believe God exist (James 2:19).
- iii. They do not obey (Luke 6:46).

“Man cannot be saved by perfect obedience, for he cannot render it. He cannot be saved by imperfect obedience because God will not accept it.”

WE NEED JESUS!

Real (imperfect) Christians:

- i. Thirst for righteousness (5:6).
- ii. Does the will of the Father (v. 21b).
- iii. Bear good fruit (v. 18).

Real faith *works* (James 2:18-20).

- i. It is **impossible** to separate faith from works (v. 18a).
- ii. If you think you can separate them, **show me** (v. 18b).
- iii. I can **show you** faith working (v. 18c).
- iv. Intellectual ascent** does not save (v. 19).
- v. Faith without works is **useless** (v. 20).

The way we live our lives confirms the truthfulness of the words, “Lord, Lord.”

2. Focus on relationship, not religion (vv. 22-23).

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Beware of Religion that ...

- i. Ignores relationship with God (Mk 7:6-8).
- ii. Focuses on outward appearances/actions (Mt 23).
- iii. Relies on your pedigree (Jn 8:33-47; Phil 3:4-11).

Let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath [RELIGION]. These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. (Col 2:16-17).

Focus on Relationship, not Religion.

- i. Walk and talk with God (Gen 1-3; Rev 21).
- ii. God only has children, not grandchildren (Jn 1:12-13).
- iii. Own your salvation, only you can (Phil 2:12).

Begin a personal relationship with Jesus
Christ ... today.