

## MAKING YOUR SALVATION SURE

### Matthew 7:21-23

#### I. INTRODUCTION-

- a. These are some of the most frightening verses in the Bible...they picture the shocking scene of multitudes of people standing before the Lord on the day of judgment...assuming that they are saved...fully expecting to be welcomed into Heaven...who are instead judged to be lost and sent to hell for all eternity.
- b. This is why the Bible tells us to make sure that we are saved... *2 Peter 1:10-11*  
*"Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall, 11 and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."*
- c. Today I want to talk about what salvation is...and what salvation is not.

#### II. WHAT SALVATION IS NOT-

- a. #1, Salvation is not joining the church...it is God's will that every saved person join and become an active part of a local church...but joining a church does not make a person a Christian.
- b. Jesus taught that there are many unsaved people (tares)...among the saved people (wheat) in the church...many people today have a "church-anity"...but they do not have Christianity.
- c. To paraphrase Matthew 7:22...many will say to Jesus on the day of their judgment ... *"Lord didn't I sing in the choir?...or didn't I teach Sunday School...or wasn't I a Deacon?...or wasn't I a preacher?...and the Lord will declared to them...depart from me I never knew you."*
- d. Joining the church is important...but it means nothing...if a person has not truly turned from their sin and received Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.
- e. #2, Salvation is not being an outwardly good and moral person...every Christian ought to be a good and moral person...every Christian ought to be honest...hard working...a good neighbor...and good citizens.
- f. But there is no person so good that they do not need Jesus Christ to save them... the Bible says that "all" have sinned and come short of the glory of God.
- g. James 2:10 says..."For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all."

- h. For a person to be saved by their own goodness...they would have to be as good as God...they would have to be as perfect and sinless as God is...and the best person in the world has sinned against God many times over.
- i. The greatest sin of all is to refuse to accept Jesus Christ as one's Savior and Lord ... to do so is to reject the love and grace of God...it is to trample underfoot the sacrifice of Christ...and it is to rebel against Heaven's King.
- j. The best person on earth who refuses to receive Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior...is a great sinner deserving of hell.
- k. #3, Salvation is not believing there is a God...or mentally agreeing with the facts of the gospel.
- l. Just because a person says they believe in God...does not make them a Christian ... *James 2:19 (NLT) "You say you have faith, for you believe that there is one God. Good for you! Even the demons believe this, and they tremble in terror."*
- m. And just because a person verbally agrees with the facts of the gospel...does not make them a Christian.
- n. It is possible for a person to mentally agree with the gospel ...and still not be saved...salvation is not just a matter of the mind...it is also a matter of the heart and will.
- o. #4, Salvation is not being religious...all religions do not lead to God...only Jesus Christ does (John 14:6)...there are multitudes of people today who are religious but lost.
- p. Salvation is not joining the church...salvation is not being a good person ... salvation is not believing there is a God...or mentally agreeing with the facts of the gospel.

### III. WHAT SALVATION IS-

- a. #1, Salvation begins when a person realizes they are lost...a person cannot be saved until they realize they are lost and separated from God because of their sin.
- b. A person cannot be saved until they realize they are powerless to save themselves and like the Publican...they cry out to God... "*God, be merciful to me a sinner!*"
- c. As long as a person is uncaring and oblivious to their lost and sinful condition ... and unwilling to confess and deal with their sin...they can never be saved.
- d. Only God can make us realize how lost we are...it is called the conviction of the Holy Spirit.

- e. #2, The second step to salvation is when a person repents or turn from our sin...  
*Acts 3:19 (NKJV) "Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord."*
- f. Repentance is more than feeling sorry for our sin...it is confessing our sin to God...it is rejecting our sin...and it is turning away from our sin to God.
- g. Repentance is asking God to help us to turn from sinful life and our sinful ways... to Him.
- h. #3, The third step in salvation is receiving Jesus Christ as the Lord and Savior of our life.
- i. To receive Jesus as "Savior" means to believe...that Jesus Christ died on the cross for our sins and He is only hope we have of being delivered from the penalty of our sin...which is an empty and wasted life...and an eternity separated from God in hell.
- j. To receive Jesus as "Lord" means that we surrender control of our life to Him...  
*Romans 10:9-13 (NKJV) "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. 11 For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame." 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. 13 For "whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."*

#### IV. CONCLUSION-

- a. Salvation is not joining the church...salvation is not being a good person ... salvation is not believing there is a God...or mentally agreeing with the facts of the gospel...salvation is confessing and repenting of your sin...it is trusting only Jesus as our Savior...and it is giving Jesus control of our life.
- b. Don't be shocked on the day of your judgment...make your salvation sure.