

Are You Going To Heaven?

Matthew 7:21-23

We live in a very heavenly minded world! You might argue that this world is wicked beyond belief. But in a recent CNN poll, it was discovered that 81% of the people asked **believed in a literal heaven** where people lived with God after death. **61% of those polled said that they believed they would go to Heaven immediately when they died.** I find these numbers astonishing considering the wickedness that fills our society, don't you? Of course, there is another side to this story.

I want to declare to you this morning that not everyone goes to Heaven when they die! I know we want to believe they do, but the fact of the matter is, not everyone who thinks they are going to Heaven really is. In what is, without question, the most important area of any person's life, most people, are sincerely wrong about their belief about salvation.

As Jesus drew near to the end of the Sermon on the Mount, He takes the time to remind men of the seriousness of their salvation. He wanted all who heard Him to be sure that they were genuinely converted. That is my desire for each of us this morning. I would like for us to spend a few minutes with these words of Jesus and notice some thoughts that come from this passage.

It may be that there are some here this morning who have never been truly saved. Perhaps this is the day when you will meet Jesus as your Savior. Maybe there are those who think they are saved, but in truth, you're not. It is my hope that God will speak to your heart today! Perhaps there are those who know you have never been converted. There is no better time than right now to get that taken care of. Let's join Jesus as He teaches us the truth that "Not Everyone Gets To Go To Heaven."

A STARTLING COMMUNICATION

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven,”

That statement should get the attention of all who read it!!!

Jesus is telling us that there will be some people who will think they are saved, but who, in fact, are still lost and headed to Hell! Jesus makes it clear that not all who **profess** Him **possess** Him!

A mere profession of Jesus as Savior is not enough to save! A person may believe in the doctrines of the faith. They may be sincere and good. However, merely saying you know Jesus is not enough to save your soul. Belonging to the church, being a good person, doing religious things, etc, are all good, but none of them can save the soul!

Jesus is telling us that there will be some who will think they are saved but, they are deceived. The Bible has much to say about this matter.

1. *"For many are called, but few are chosen."*, Matt. 22:14.
2. The parable of the Wheat and the Tares, Mt. 13:24-30; 13:36-43.
3. Paul also spoke of this. *Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? —unless indeed you fail to meet the test!* 2 Cor. 13:5
4. Peter also mentioned this phenomenon, *Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall.* 2 Pet. 1:10.

Why is this such a major concern? Because being outside of Jesus, there is no hope for salvation. Sadly, there are many who base their "salvation experience" on what their mother or father told them happened. Many are trusting a time when they had a strange experience. What we need to get firmly nailed down this morning is that there are many people who are trusting in some "fuzzy" experience to get them to Heaven.

A SIMPLE CONDITION

but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

Here, Jesus clears up the matter of what brings salvation to a life. He says that people are saved by "doing the will of His Father." Does this mean that people are saved by works? Of course not! Eph. 2:8-9.

If we are going to understand this verse, we are going to have to find out what the will of the Father is. According to John 6:40, *“For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”*

So, the Bible makes it clear that salvation comes to those who see the Son and believe in Him. The bottom line? Salvation is by faith in the finished work of Jesus on the cross and obedience to the faith as revealed in the New Testament.

A STUNNED COMPLAINT

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?’

When these people hear the requirement for salvation, they begin to recount all the things they have done in life. They had done some pretty impressive stuff! They had preached the Word of God! They had cast out devils! They had done many wonderful works! And, they had done it all in the Name of Jesus! You see, they were sincere! They were busy! They were doing good stuff in a good Name. They were making a difference. They were so busy working for the Lord that they never took the time to get to know Him personally!

These people appealed to their works to save them. They even call Him Lord, but **they do not know Him!** You can work and give and visit and preach and teach and go to church, but the truth remains. Salvation is by *“grace through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God. Not of works lest any man should boast.”*

Do you hear the boasting? Notice that their whole claim to Heaven rests in what "they" have done! The focus is on them and not on the Lord. May I remind you, your salvation will never be about you? It will never be about what you have accomplished or what you may have done. Salvation is all about Jesus and what He did when He went to the cross and took the sins of the world on Himself at Calvary.

2 Cor. 5:21 *“For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”* Salvation is about what Jesus became on our behalf.

One day, a king died. His servants spread the news all over the palace. He had died in his bed of natural causes. "Where has he gone?", asked one of the king's wisest counselors. "Why, to Heaven of course!", answered all the others. "No", said the other gravely, "I served this king for many years and traveled with him to many places. He loved to travel and would go over the details of each journey. Every element was planned and anticipated. But I have never heard him say a word about traveling to Heaven. It is a journey for which I saw him make no preparation. I am quite sure he did not go to Heaven."

What about you? Have you made the right preparations?

A SHOCKING CONFESSION

And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’

As those people stand before the Lord, they will be shocked at what they had already heard. Now they are about to hear something that will forever seal their destiny. He tells them, *"I never knew you."* They had claimed to be working in His name. They had claimed that they knew Him. They had professed a relationship, but Jesus tells the truth. He tells them that at no time in their lives had He known them! They had believed they were saved but the truth is – they don't belong to Jesus!

There are those who feel that this passage is speaking to those who have fallen away. Some feel that these people were once saved and now, for whatever reason, they are lost again. Of course, Jesus says that He **"never"** knew them. If He **ever** knew then He cannot say that He **never** knew them! These people are just plain lost in their sins! If Jesus ever knew you, He still does. If not, then you might be in this crowd that gathers on that day and finds they have no future in Heaven. Not everyone gets to go to Heaven!

A SUDDEN CONDEMNATION

depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'

These lost ones are ordered to leave the presence of the Lord! There is only one place where men can be free from the manifest presence of God and that is in the fires of Hell, 2 Thes. 1:8-9, *in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from[a] the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might,*

I think the saddest words in all the Bible will be these words recorded here, *"I never knew you, depart from me."* These are people who expected to hear the Lord welcoming them into Heaven. They were sincere. They thought they were saved. They knew all the catch words and the right things to say. They knew "Gospel speak". Why then will these people hear these words? Because they are basing their hope of salvation on their own works and goodness. Because they have failed to place their faith in the finished work of Jesus on the cross. They will go to Hell because they chose their way over God's way.

Conclusion

81% of Americans believe in a literal Heaven. Almost that many expect to go there immediately when they die. Will they? Only if they have done what those on Pentecost did in Acts 2:38 – *“Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”*