

Watch yourselves, that you do not lose what we have accomplished, but that you may receive a full reward.

2John 1:8

Store In My Heart

John 17:20-21

I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me.

Jesus asks the Father not only for the Apostles to be one, but also all those who believe in Him through the teaching the Apostles would deliver. We have opportunity today to put our trust in God because of what those men taught through the inspiration of the Spirit. If we all follow those same teachings we will all be one with Jesus, the Apostles, the Spirit, the Father, and all others who have submitted to that Word.

Such unity of belief and practice would show the world that our belief must be in God for it could never be found among men otherwise. Let us be diligent workers together in following The Word.



False Evidences of Salvation

Matt Allen

Matthew 7 contains the conclusion to Jesus' sermon on the mount. In **7:21** Jesus warns: *Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord; will enter the kingdom of heaven... Some will live their life feeling secure and religious. They will feel close to God—but in all reality will be a stranger to Him! This "false peace" will lead us to think ourselves saved when we are not! Jesus' words here are among the scariest in God's word. They should serve as a wake up call to every Christian. Jesus describes those who felt assured of their salvation in **7:21b-22**. What was the problem? Why were they rejected? What is the lesson for us?*

Religious Fervor And Zeal Is Not Always A Sign Of Salvation!

It is evident from **7:22** that those in the text had an emotional attachment to Jesus. They were "fired up." There is little doubt they were excited about their work. There was little room for laziness in their work for God. This is also true with some in our time and unfortunately they base their religious life upon their *feelings*. *Some think they feel more than others—therefore, are more "spiritual" than others.* Our feelings and zeal must be based upon knowledge! (**Romans 10:2**) If salvation were based solely upon zeal—Paul would have had no worries while a Jew. He writes: *as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless.* But, of course, he said: *whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ.* (**Philippians 3:6-7**) Our religious fervor and zeal must come from our relationship with Christ!

Religious Works Are Not Always A Sign Of Salvation

"It is possible for one to preach—and to preach a correct message—and not be in the kingdom himself." Balaam (**Numbers 22**); Saul (**1Samuel 10:10-11; 18:10; 19:23-24**); and others prove this point clearly. Paul guarded against this danger. He said: *I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be*

disqualified. (1Corinthians 9:27) Today, some are tremendous workers for the Lord—sacrificing great amounts of time; money; and effort. This is wonderful! We need more workers! But **one must not assume that just because he works hard that God is in him and he is in His kingdom!** Our great and wonderful works must result from our relationship with Christ!

Having A Correct Belief Is Not Always A Sign Of Salvation

Doctrine is important! It is essential! But, that is not all there is to it! There are many Christians who can spout off scripture after scripture on the necessity of baptism; the one true church; the error of premillennialism; how the impossibility of apostasy is wrong; why we should refrain from using instruments in worship; and why we partake of the Lord's Supper on the first day of the week. While we often do a great job in learning & teaching these important doctrinal precepts—it will mean nothing if we fail to be transformed into *God's kind of Christian*. For example, some have it right doctrinally, but exercise no control over their tongue. (James 1:22-26) There is great danger in one believing the right doctrine—but never putting God's word into practice where it counts—in **his life!**

We can avoid being one of the “surprised” ones on judgment if we will change our heart through the application of God's word. It will come through our seeking holiness! Paul writes of this in **Ephesians 4:24**: *put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth. Jesus wants to establish (our) hearts without blame in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints.* (1Thessalonians 3:13) Putting on holiness means that we must possess the inward righteousness that Jesus preached about during the first half of the sermon on the mount. We must ask: “Am I conforming to the kind of person described in the beatitudes?” “Do I have real holiness and righteousness within?” Jesus said, *You are those who justify yourselves in the sight of men, but God knows your hearts; for that which is highly esteemed among men is detestable in the sight of God.* (Luke 16:15) Beware of the danger of relying upon “false evidences” of salvation. Beware of the danger of self-deception. Approach your spiritual life with a diligence resulting from your love for Christ!

(Matt grew up here and began preaching in the 1990s, mostly in Indiana and Ohio. This article was written for StraitWay in 2003 and is a good reminder to evaluate our devotion to serving God regularly. Our service is not only physical, it is a complete devotion of our whole being to God's Will. DLH)

Contact Us

We like opportunities to speak with others about the Lord.

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The
CHURCH OF CHRIST
MEETS HERE



10:20 AM • Sunday Worship Service
5:00 PM • Sunday Night Bible Study
7:00 PM • Wednesday Bible Study

For Our Information

Sue Soliday is in CHI St. Vincent Hot Springs. They will be talking to a surgeon about removing colon cancer.

Deberah Brooks has knee surgery scheduled in April.

JoBeth Henderson has chemo treatments on Tuesdays.

Paula Laubach's grandniece's baby is off the vent and starting to take some formula but needs to improve her eating.

Tommy Robinson is still waiting for his radiation treatment.

Brandy Tolleson has to see her regular Dr. again for a referral to a new neurologist.

Sunday Evening - **Isaiah 45:14** Wednesday - **Singing**