

July 1 - 73 A.M.
Sept. 14, 75 A.M. v.v.

"RELIGIOUS BUT LOST"

Matt. 7:21-22

I don't have to behave - I'm already saved, - Ho-Hum attitude toward ~~obedience & service~~.
Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of Heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in Heaven.

Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? And in thy name have cast out devils? And in thy name done many wonderful works?

And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

I'm saved, I'm going to Heaven, my ticket -
"Not all who sound Religions, are godly People - "

To me the (saddest) revealed truth in the Word of God is not the fact that a lot of bad people are going to Hell but rather a lot of good people are going to Hell.

I heard of a man once who looked forward all of his life to killing a deer. He never had much of an opportunity - so he went out deer hunting with some good deer hunters. They put him on a deer stand and guaranteed him at least he would get a shot. They told him to sit there and be ready. When you hear the dogs bark and you look down that trail, and you see the deer coming - don't get frightened. Just be calm and when the deer gets within a short distance, take good aim at his heart, and let him have it.

Well the man got out there before daylight and he waited for hours. Every now and then he would lift his gun up and put it down. Aim it down the trail at an imaginary deer. He knew exactly how he was going to kill him. And after a while he heard the dogs bark and his heart began to beat faster. Then he hears the bushes shake. Then he looked right down the trail - here comes that great big buck deer. With great long horns. He watches as he came up within a few paces. And stopped

and stood there before him, almost daring him to shoot him. The man took a good aim right at his heart. He pulled the trigger, and when he did - snap went the gun. Away went the deer and he realized that he had forgotten to load the gun.

Now friend, that would be a tragedy for me but I will tell you what's 10 billion times worse than that. A person can talk about Heaven, sing about Heaven, and plan to go to Heaven and not to get there.

You remember Judas, he was religious but lost. He walked with Jesus, talked with Jesus, preached in the name of Jesus - he even kissed Jesus. He was at the very door to Heaven. So close was he that his fellowship he thought would save him. Likewise there are many religious people who are like that disciple. Religious but lost. And that is exactly what it says here about the man building his house on sand. And people who are not saved.

I. Let us see the tragic reality.

First of all he did not say just a baker's dozen, or just a few people - but he says that many are going to cry Lord, Lord - and when they are not saved. And he says many many are going to be like that. I do not know what percentage of professing church members are not saved. But I think it is rather significant that Jesus answered the question asked by the Apostle. What would be the sign of his coming and the end of the age.

And Jesus answered the question by giving the parable of the ten virgins. In the parable of the ten virgins - half of them had no oil in their lamps and they were not saved. Now does Jesus mean that in the latter days that 50% of the people will

they tell me that they are convinced that there is a relationship between lung cancer and cigarette smoking. And between heart disease and cigarette smoking. And yet a great many of them who are condemning smoking will light up a Camel and start puffing away. In other words, they recommend a medicine which they do not take.

I'm not saying you ought to preach, teach, or sing if you are not saved. But just because you are preaching, or teaching, or singing - and you have blessed people by it - is not a positive proof that you are saved. Inspite of your zeal, you need to be born again.

II. The Scriptural Reason.

Why was it that they were not saved. Someone is going to say, well, I'll tell you - they had it but they lost it. But whatever you believe about that possibility this crowd was not saved. They had never known God and they never had an experience with the Lord in the first place.

Why weren't they saved. I hope every person, boy - girl, student, adult will listen carefully, as I try to show you why they were not saved. Because this will explain why many of you inspite of your religion are not saved.

Please notice, many will say to me in that day - Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? And in thy name have we not cast out devils? And have done many wondrous works.

What are they saying / Lord, look what we have done. They said nothing about what Jesus had done. They talked only of what they had done. And therefore, they were not saved because they were depending on good works.

boast.

Titus 3:5 - Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost.

Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Eph. 2:8 - Says by grace and not of works.

Titus 3:5 - Says salvation is not of works but the mercy and grace of God.

Now an illustration of this is a true story of a preacher who lived up in the North and he was talking with some boys and girls about the grace of God. One Saturday afternoon he was walking through the park - going to a wedding with a high top hat on. One of the boys was out throwing snowballs and he had an idea that it would be fun to knock that preacher's hat off. He hid behind an evergreen tree, and instead of hitting the preacher's hat, he hit the preacher in the face. The boy jumped from behind the tree and started running. The preacher took off after him and pretty soon, the preacher thought I'd just better demonstrate to that little boy what grace is. He knew that that little boy liked to fish. And that he didn't have a good fishing poll. So he went to the hardware store and bought the nicest fishing poll he could find. He carried it to the boy's house. When the mother came to the door he asked, where's Jim. And she said, I don't know. Well, Jim had just gone out the back door. Well, tell him when he comes back that I have bought him a fishing poll. A little after dark the little boy knocked at the door of the preacher's house, and he stood there with the fishing poll in his hand. And he said, preacher - here is your fishing poll. He replied, son, this isn't my fishing poll. I bought it and gave it to you. The boy says you wouldn't have done it if you would have known that I was the one who hit you with the snowball - would you?

down here.

Dr. H. A. Ironsides, who preached for many years at Moody Memorial Church in Chicago, was riding on the train with a man and he was trying to talk to him about the Lord. The man said that he knew that he was saved. He knew that he was saved because he lived such a good life. Dr. Ironsides said, alright, for the sake of argument - I'll say that you are saved because you are living right. But I want you to tell me one thing - when you get up to Heaven, you can't sing in the choir. The man said, let me tell you, I have a good tenor voice. I'm going to be in the choir in Heaven. Dr. Ironsides said, no, oh no. He asked how come. Dr. Ironsides said man, if you were in the choir in Heaven why you would spoil the music because you would be on the wrong song. How come? Well, he said, anybody else in Heaven is going to be singing - blessed be the name of the lamb, who hath redeemed us by his blood. Everybody else is singing about the redemption of the blood you are going to be up there singing - look what I have done, look what I have done. You will spoil the music. My brother, you won't be in Heaven. You are depending on what you have done. Because the one way to be saved is not what you have done but what Jesus has done.

The next thing, you can't be saved by your works is because in order to be saved by your goodness, you would have to be absolutely perfect from the cradle to the grave.

There is no body that is perfect. No one can say that he has not broken one law or guilty of one sin.

James 2:10-11 and whosoever shall keep the whole law and offend in one point - he is guilty of all. For he that said do not commit adultery also said, do not kill. Now if you commit no adultery, yet if you kill, thou art become a transgressor

of the law. Do you hear that. If you do not keep the whole law and you offend it in one point, you are guilty of breaking the whole law. If you lie you have broken the whole law.

Suppose that if there were such a situation, that I might be suspended in mid-air with a chain of ten links, over a firey furnace beneath me. Now how many links would have to break for me to fall into the fire. Just one link. That is correct. Just one. Even if you expect to get to Heaven by living right, all you have got to do to go to Hell is to break the law at one point, and you are lost.

I heard of a man once who went to church at night and he thought his wife was going to stay home. And so that night he decided to get up and testify. He got up and he bragged about how perfect he was, and how long he had been perfect, and how many months he had been such a good man. Now he didn't know that later on his wife had decided to come to prayer meeting. She slipped in and sat on the back seat. And she took his bragging about long enough. And she jumped up and said, Johnny, I'm here. Well, he sat down at once - and I don't blame him brother.

Friends have you ever seen anybody besides yourself that you think was perfect enough to deserve Heaven.

Well, George Ragman, a preacher over in Ky. asked that question one time - in the mountains of Ky. And a little woman sitting beside an older man held up her hand. And Dr. Ragman says you mean to tell me you have seen a person perfect enough to go to Heaven, by their goodness. She said Dr. Ragman, I ain't never seen one but I sure have heard tell of one - a whole lot. Who is it - it's my husband's first

I have an idea that when she was alive, he didn't brag on her that much. Listen, I want to tell you that there is none perfect, and all have sinned. People are just mixed up as to what really saves them. They are as mixed up as the old maid woman - and she was going around during the war trying to get young men to join the Army. I guess she couldn't get them to marry her so she was going to send them off to the Army. So she tried everybody in town and she got into her car and drove out into the country. There was a country boy sitting out there on a milk stool, milking the cow. So she tooted her horn and stopped and said, hey sonny, why aren't you at the front. Maybe he misunderstood her, but he replied, madam, because the milk ain't at the front.

I want to tell you friends, there are some city folks who don't know which end of the cow you get the milk from. But whether you are mixed up on this or not, I want to say to you, that if you break the law - then you are guilty. And if you break it in one point, you are guilty before God. And God offers salvation to us freely. And these people - Jesus said, I never knew you. Depart from me. Ye that work iniquity.

V. 23

III. Then what is going to be your reaction to this.

What should people do when they find themselves in the church but not saved.
What should they do.

Noah's ark was built and God said, come in. God shut the door. Now there are lots of people who believe that Noah had tickets or something - and when the storm raised and the wind was blowing, etc. And they would say, I'm not afraid. I'm going to be lost. But the Bible says that God put them inside the ark. And that God shut the doors. That's salvation - if you want to be saved, you must come to the Lord Jesus and forget your good works. And get into the ark. A lots of folks have gotten

into the church with a mistaken idea that that would save their souls. Others have had a mistaken idea that they could live a righteous life and get to Heaven. For by the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men teaching us that denying ungodliness and worldly lust, he should live soberly, righteously , and godly in this present world.

Now I am not decrying good works. They are worthwhile. We need more good works.

But what should these people do. They ought to repent of their dead works, they need the same repentance as everybody else.

Dr. Pascal, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Nashville, Tenn. once said that the greatest mission field that we have today is right inside the church rolls. Now what did he mean. He didn't mean to say that there weren't many lost people outside the church. But he meant to say there was a great host of people who were on the church rolls of church across this nation who were still lost. There are many people who belong to the church but you have never been born again. That might explain why your life is no different now from what it used to be.

Now when a person is born again his life is different afterwards. He is changed. Now, you joined the church but you didn't join Jesus. And you have nothing to help you live the holy life. You have nothing to bear fruits of Heaven with, you have no root.

Now if you find yourself in the church lost. Why not repent of your sins and come to the Lord and get saved. In other words, go down the aisle, confess the Lord Jesus as your Redeemer, and get right with him.

Now suppose today, an old bachelor went down to the dime store or the jewelry store and bought him a wedding ring. And he put that wedding ring on. And here is

a club for married men and he goes strutting in. Now he thinks that he is going to get in because he has a wedding ring on because that is going to make him married. No, that doesn't make him married anymore than a wedding ring gives him a wife. That is just a symbol - and that wedding ring is not going to give him any cooking. Or any loving.

Now the two men who went down to the temple to pray in the 18th chapter of Luke - the publican and the Pharisee. Now the thing to note about that is that the publican was not a Republican. There are some people who may think that he was such a vile man. And since there is so much sin - but it wasn't the publican who was sent to Hell. But it was the other man because he did not get right at the altar.

Who is saved, and who is not? Do you want me to tell you who is saved today. It is not just being good, or saying - Lord look what I've done. But it is those, whether you have been good or bad, who have turned like the publican and said, God saved me for Jesus sake. Your salvation - you have looked unto Jesus to save you. And the joy bells will ring in your heart.

Why are there so many people miserable today. Because they have disobeyed God. They have never done what the word of God teaches ought to be done. I'm inviting you to do so. To give your heart to Jesus and to place your whole faith and hope in him.

Persecuted by - Right later - story before - But -
under etc -

Harmus - // acting one way
 // dislike another