WHAT KIND OF SAVED PERSON ARE YOU?

"AND I, BRETHREN, COULD NOT SPEAK UNTO YOU AS UNTO SPIRITUAL, BUT AS UNTO CARNAL, EVEN AS UNTO BABIES IN CHRIST. I HAVE FED YOU WITH MILK, AND NOT WITH MEAT: FOR HITHERTO YE WERE NOT ABLE TO BEAR IT, NEITHER YET NOW ARE YE ABLE. FOR YE ARE YET CARNAL: FOR WHEREAS THERE IS AMONG YOU ENVYING, AND STRIFE, AND DIVISIONS, ARE YE NOT CARNAL, AND WALK AS MEN? FOR WHILE ONE SAITH, I AM OF PAUL; AND ANOTHER, I AM OF APOLLO; ARE YE NOT CARNAL?"
I Corinthians 3:1-4

Paul addressed the Corinthians as brethren in verse one of the text. He refers to two kinds of saved people. There is a carnal saved person. There is a spiritual saved person. The carnal saved person is a babe in Christ. This doesn't refer to the length of time a person has been saved. It refers to their progress in the Christian life.

Paul said he couldn't speak to them as spiritual, but as carnal. As you study this book you will see why they were carnal. They were divided, envious, striving, immoral, and unscriptural in doctrine.

I want to ask you, what kind of saved person are you? Are you a spiritual saved person? Are you a carnal saved person? The Lord knows and He wants you to know.

I. YOU MAY BE A CARNAL SAVED PERSON.

You may be FEEABLE. The word feeable means weak. All of us are weak at times. All of us need the Lord's strength to be strong. There are some people who seem to be weak all of the time. You have to constantly help, feed, look after, and give attention to a babe. Paul said the Corinthians were babes in Christ. He had to talk to them and deal with them as babes, instead of spiritual mature people.

The reason why some people are always weak is found in John 15:5. "I AM THE VINE, YE ARE THE BRANCHES: HE THAT ABIDETH IN ME, AND I IN HIM, THE SAME BRINGETH FORTH MUCH FRUIT: FOR WITHOUT ME YE CAN DO NOTHING." Some of God's people haven't learned this truth yet. When we acknowledge our weakness, Jesus can make us strong.
II Cor. 12:9

You may be FICKLE. Fickle means lack of steadfastness, constancy, or stability. Carnal saved people are fickle. This involves going thru a drastic change in a short period of time. Some saved people are on fire one day and cold as an ice cube the next. Some go from giving all to God in one service to holding out all the next service. Some are conquered Bible Students today and next month wonder if God exists at all. Paul wanted the Ephesians to be grounded. "THAT WE HENCEFORTH BE NO MORE CHILDREN, TOSSED TO AND FRO, AND CARRIED ABOUT WITH EVERY WIND OF DOCTRINE, BY THE SLEIGHT OF MEN, AND CUNNING CRAFTINESS, WHEREBY THEY LIE IN WAIT TO DECEIVE." Eph. 4:14

You may be FLESHLY. Fleshly means you live a worldly type life in contrast to a spiritual life. You may be more interested in pleasure, passion, pride, and position rather than the Lord and His service. Paul charged the Corinthians with

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three sins. They were envying, striving, and divided. Carnality will be at the bottom of envy, strife, and division. John wrote, "LOVE NOT THE WORLD, NEITHER THE THINGS THAT ARE IN THE WORLD. IF ANY MAN LOVE THE WORLD, THE LOVE OF THE FATHER IS NOT IN HIM." I John 2:15 Jesus warns us the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches, and the pleasures of life choke the Word. Matt. 13:22; Luke 8:14

You may go by FEELINGS. Many saved people try to serve the Lord and do His work according to their feelings. They will work for the Lord and serve Him if they feel like it. Personal emotional feelings should never be the basis for our service to the Lord. Feelings aren’t worth a dime. You can feel saved today and you can feel lost tomorrow. Service to God should be rendered out of responsibility to God motivated by the truth taught and instilled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit. Many preachers, deacons, church leaders, teachers, etc., serve God faithfully as they struggle with their feelings. My salvation, call to the ministry, and service to God cannot be based upon feelings. They must be based upon the truth.

You may be FORGETFUL. Some saved people so soon forget what they were and where they were when God saved them by His grace. Some forget the tender love, mercy, compassion, forgiveness, and grace God extended to them in saving their souls. Some forget God’s Word, His services, and His purpose in saving them. The Bible is full of admonitions to remember. Some forget the promises they made to the Lord. Some forget the surrendering of their lives to the Lord in the past.

You may be FRUSTRATED. Even saved people can get confused and mixed up and can even mess up. Troubles are varied and many and daily experienced. You can feel the pressure caused by trouble on the job, in the home, at church, etc.

During such times people get confused and mixed up. Some begin to doubt if they are saved. If you feel the frustration continually it could very well be you are carnal. Paul realized an important truth in II Cor. 3:6 "I HAVE PLANTED, APOLLOS WATERED; BUT GOD GAVE THE INCREASE."

You may be FRAGILE. You may be so fragile others may feel like handling you with kid gloves. Some of God’s people stay upset over little unimportant things. They argue over petty things. Sometimes they argue over personal opinion and preference and say they are taking a stand for God’s Word. The Lord teaches us to be tough soldiers. Paul wrote, "THOU THEREFORE ENDURE HARDNESS AS A GOOD SOLDIER OF JESUS CHRIST." II Tim. 2:3

You may be FORSAKEN. Saved people can forsake the Lord. Paul wrote, "DEMAS HATH FORSAKEN ME, HAVING LOVED THIS PRESENT WORLD." You can turn and walk away from the Lord just like His Disciples. You can follow afar off just like Peter and the other Apostles. It breaks my heart to know of saved people who are not serving the Lord. Some are backslidden and even justify their condition.

It is very possible that you may be a carnal saved person. If you are feeble, fickle, fleshy, go in feelings, are forgetful, frustrated, fragile, and forsaken.

II. YOU CAN BE A SPIRITUAL SAVED PERSON.

Paul wrote to the Corinthians and said he couldn’t write to them as spiritual, but not as carnal. He points out the possibility of spirituality. As a saved person we are to be spiritually minded.

You can be FAITHFUL. A Spiritual person is faithful. Paul wrote, "MOREOVER IT IS REQUIRED IN STEWARDS, THAT A MAN BE FOUND FAITHFUL." I Cor. 4:2 We are to be faithful to God. We are to be faithful to God’s Word. We are to be faithful to one of the Lord’s churches. Moses, Joshua, Caleb, and Aaron were faithful and called upon the Jewish people to obey the Lord when the whole multitude was about to stone them because they wanted to go back to Egypt. Stephen was faithful to God when he preached God’s word and was stoned to death. Malachi wrote, "THEN THEY THAT FEARED THE LORD SPAKE OFTEN ONE TO ANOTHER: AND THE LORD HEARKENED, AND HEARD IT, AND A BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE WAS WRITTEN BEFORE HIM FOR THEM THAT FEARED THE LORD, AND THAT THOUGHT UPON HIS NAME." Mal. 3:16

You can be FRUITFUL. A spiritual person is fruitful. Jesus said, "I AM THE VINE, YE ARE THE BRANCHES: HE THAT ABIDETH IN ME, AND I IN HIM, THE SAME BRINGETH FORTH MUCH FRUIT: FOR WITHOUT ME YE CAN DO NOTHING." John 15:5 We are to grow in grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. II Pet. 3:18 We will grow by reading God’s Word, receiving God’s Word, and reforming to God’s Word. Fruit is borne as we live God’s Word. When saved people are spiritual you can see the fruit of the Spirit in their lives. "BUT THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS LOVE, JOY, PEACE, LONGSUFFERING, GENTLENESS, GOODNESS, FAITH, MEANKNESS AND TEMPERANCE."

You can be FEARFUL. Fear means to be afraid of and respect. The verse and context will determine which meaning applies to a verse. Respect for God and being afraid of God go hand in hand. It is written of Job, "...AND THAT MAN WAS PERFECT AND UPRIGHT, AND ONE THAT FEARED GOD, AND ESCHEWED EVIL." Job 1:1 Moses had respect unto the recompense of the reward. Heb. 11:26 You need to respect the Lord. You need to reverence Him. You need to be afraid of Him. The sins of our day among the lost and saved is no one fears the Lord. A spiritual person will respect and reverence the Lord and His Word.

You can be FITFUL. A Spiritual person will be strong and spiritually fit. Listen to the challenge given to Joshua.
"HAVE NOT I COMMANDED THEE? BE STRONG AND OF A GOOD COURAGE, BE NOT AFRAID, NEITHER BE THOU DISMAYED: FOR THE LORD THY GOD IS WITH THEE Whithersoever Thou Goest." Josh. 1:9 You must be spiritually fit to fight the good fight of faith. II Tim. 2:3, 4 Spiritual exercise, diet, and rest, and a healthy outlook is needed. Study God's word, pray, confess your sins, go to church, and trust the Lord. This will keep you spiritually fit. The Lord can make us strong as He did Paul. II Cor. 12:9 You can be FORGIVING. A spiritual person is forgiving. Paul wrote, "FORBEARING ONE ANOTHER, AND FORGIVING ONE ANOTHER, IF ANY MAN HAVE A QUARREL AGAINST ANY: EVEN AS CHRIST FORGAVE YOU, SO ALSO DO YE." Col. 3:13 A spiritual person is kind, forgiving, and tender-hearted toward others. Eph. 4:32 The Lord forgives you as you forgive others. Matt. 18:14, 15 You are to forgive others the same manner God forgives you. The ugly sin of unforgiveness is eating away like a cancer at our homes, churches, communities, and various personal relationships to others. Jesus spoke these words to Peter about forgiveness, "...I SAY NOT UNTO THEE, UNTIL SEVENTY TIMES: BUT, UNTIL SEVENTY TIMES SEVEN." Matt. 18:22 You can be FREE. A spiritual person is free. As a saved person I have the greatest and purest form of freedom. Jesus said, "AND YE SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH, AND THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE." John 8:32 Jesus also said, "IF THE SON THEREFORE SHALL MAKE YOU FREE, YE SHALL BE FREE INDEED." John 8:36 Paul wrote, "STAND FAST THEREFORE IN THE LIBERTY WHEREWITH CHRIST HATH MADE US FREE." Gal. 5:1 We are free from worries, fear, failure, falsehood, foes, future, and filthiness. I am free not to live the way I want to. I can. I am free to live for the Lord, not because I have to, but because I want to. With precious freedom comes grave responsibilities. You can be a FRIEND. A spiritual person is a friend. You can be a friend to that lost person and that saved person. A true friend will have your best interest at heart. You can have no better friend than a saved person sincerely trying to live for the Lord. The ministry has many heartaches, hurts, and humbling experiences, but one thing that is encouraging to God's man and His family are those real true precious friends that you make for a life time. To see people that I use to pastor is like seeing part of my family and an old friend. The Lord wants us to search our hearts. What kind of saved person are you? Which class do you fit in? How miserable is the carnal saved person. How contented and satisfied is the spiritual saved person. You were saved to worship, fellowship, and serve the precious Lord. Only a spiritual life will satisfy you and God. May we pray for one another as we seek to allow God to have His way. May we heed Paul's advice in Col. 3:2. "SET YOUR AFFECTION ON THINGS ABOVE, NOT ON THINGS ON THE EARTH."

WILL YE ALSO GO AWAY?

TEXT: John 6:65, 71

INTRODUCTION:

Many people followed Jesus because they saw the miracles which He did on them that were diseased. John 6:2 Amused, fascinated or just desiring some temporal blessing from Him to consume on their own lust. Always hoping to receive and never intending or expecting to give to Him. Some accepted Jesus as a prophet. John 6:14 Some sought Jesus because they were free loaders hoping to be filled again. John 6:26 Whatever was their reason Jesus knew. He knew what was in man. John 2:24, 25

I. JESUS THE BREAD OF LIFE. John 6:35

A. Bread of God is He which cometh down from heaven. John 6:33
B. Bread of God giveth life to the world. John 6:33
C. Satisfies the hunger of the soul forever. John 6:35
D. One must partake for it to satisfy need. John 6:35
E. Many offended at this - Jesus spoke of spiritual - many followers followed for temporal - Will you go away or trust Christ?

II. NOTICE THE CHOICE HE GAVE.

A. Will ye also go away?
   1. You must decide - personally - he that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out.
B. One determines his course in life.

III. WILL YE GO AWAY?

A. Away from:
   1. Fellowship of God and Christ.
   2. The peace of God and mind.
   3. His church and the fellowship of people of kindred minds and hearts.
   4. Rewards of the faithful worker.
   5. The blessing and promises of God.
   6. Unbelievers to turn away from Christ is to turn away from Heaven itself.

B. Go Away To:
   1. Believer to the chasten hand of God.
   2. Go away into the world and sin.
   3. Go away to spiritual famine and unhappiness.
   4. Go away to fulfill old proverb II Pet. 2:22
      a. Pictures dog partaking of that which is once cast off.
      b. Pictures sow that is groomed for show returning to wallow. Ex. 4-8 show animals...Nature isn't changed.
THE CHURCH AND HER PRAYER LIFE

TEXT: Habakkuk 3:1-2

R.M. Thompson

INTRODUCTION:
In all the Scriptures that are read, prayer is the chain that binds them together. Prayer precedes blessing. Prayer and power in the church go hand in hand.

I. THE CHURCH NEEDS TO PRAY DIRECTLY.
A. James 4:2
B. John 16:24

II. THE CHURCH NEEDS TO PRAY SUBMISSIVELY.
A. Humble before Him. James 4:6, 7
B. II Chron. 7:14
C. Hear David. Psa. 51:17

III. THE CHURCH NEEDS TO PRAY ERENESTLY.
A. With fervent. James 5:16
B. With spiritual hunger. Matt. 5:6
C. With seeking. Psa. 63:1

IV. THE CHURCH NEEDS TO PRAY BOLDLY.
A. Hear the Apostle John. I John 5:14, 15
B. Hear Jesus. Mark 11:24

V. THE CHURCH NEEDS TO PRAY IN UNITY.
A. In one accord. Acts 1:14
B. Hear Jesus. Mark 10:19

VI. THE CHURCH NEEDS TO PRAY CONTINUALLY.
A. Eph. 6:18
B. Luke 18:1
C. I Thess. 5:17

VII. THE CHURCH NEEDS TO PRAY MIGHTILY.
A. Eph. 6:10-18
B. II Cor. 10:4, 5

CONCLUSION:
Add to these the thought of responsive prayer, we are told that Jesus waits for us to seek Him out; we need to respond as a body, (His body) to His invitation. Rev. 3:20

SIN

TEXT: Psalms 103:10

Sammy Eldredge

INTRODUCTION:
I believe we don't really realize what sin is and how it effects God, and Man. Just what is Sin?
A. Sin is the transgression of God's law. I John 3
B. What so ever is not of faith is sin. Rom. 14:23
C. James 4:17
D. Let us look at sin in an over all sense and see if we might learn how sin effects God and man.

I. WHAT SIN HAS DONE:
A. It Destroyed The World. Gen. 6:5-7
B. It Destroyed Man, In the Flood. Gen. 7:21
C. It Destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah. Gen.19
1. There were entire populations of people.
2. None were spared except those who were living by faith in God.
D. It Destroyed lives.
1. Saul the King's life was destroyed by sin.
2. David's life was destroyed by sin.
3. Ananias' and Sapphira's lives were destroyed by sin.
4. Many others in the Bible and in our past.

II. WHAT SIN IS DOING.
A. It is corrupting the world system.
1. There is no rest or peace.
2. There is very little love, even among the friendly nations.
B. It is destroying lives of men and women.
1. The sin of lust is causing men and women to break their marriage vows.
2. The sin of lust is causing men to drink strong drink, and kill themselves and others.
3. The sin of lust is causing men to hate one another, even though they are brothers.
4. When we are not true to God's teaching our lives are in the process of deterioration.
C. Sin is destroying the chances of the lost being saved, before it is too late.
1. One young man said, "I think it is too late.
2. He was doubting God's Word, and ability and that in itself is sin.
3. But his life is hanging in the balance and that was caused by sin.

III. WHAT SIN IS GOING TO DO.
A. It is going to destroy the World. I John 2:15
B. It will destroy the greatest part of man on the earth during Tribulation. Rev. 8
C. Sin will ultimately cause many to stand before the Great White Throne and be cast into the lake of fire, for eternity.
D. But there is something more devastating than that.
1. Right now Christ is giving an opportunity for your sin to be blotted out, and some will not come.
2. The lost person who will not come asking forgiveness for his sins, is saying, He doesn't believe God's Word.
3. The unrepentant Church member is saying, "I'm saved, why do I need to repent?"
THE SIMPLICITY OF SALVATION

TEXT: Romans 10:8

INTRODUCTION:
A. God has made salvation very simple. It is the preacher & teacher's job to present it simple.
B. If your child was away from home you would make it as simple as possible for them to get back home.
C. Salvation is not running an obstacle course and hoping to find salvation.
I. GOD'S PART IN SALVATION IS BIG, TREMENDOUS.
A. Salvation is Big To Be Sure.
   1. It is big on God's part.
   2. It is very simple for man.
B. Mankind That God Created, Sinned.
C. God's plan of salvation was put into operation on that day.
D. Satan set out to destroy God's plan.
   1. He caused Cain to kill Abel.
   2. He tried through Seth to block God's plan.
   3. Satan tried to get Joseph to put Mary away and not take her as wife.
   4. Satan tried even Jesus' birth.
   5. Satan tried to get Jesus to sin.
   6. Satan's last try was made while Jesus was on the cross.
E. It Is Complicated To Be Sure.
   1. A person is saved, redeemed, set free of sin, made an heir of God, saved from hell.
   2. It is BIG, IMMENSE.
   3. The Big complicated part God has done.
II. MAN HAS TRIED TO COMPLICATE GETTING SAVED.
A. God has said "come" that simple. Rev. 22:17
   1. For the supper in Luke 14 the invitation was come.
   2. The only thing you can do to get saved is come.
B. Man Wants to add something to this.
   1. He wants some candles or other thing.
   2. He wants to learn a confession to say.
   3. He wants to feel something to make him jump or roll or holler.
III. BIBLE EXAMPLES OF CONVERSION SHOWN OUTWARD.
A. Paul - A Tight shone around about blinded - he fell on his face.
B. Matthew simply followed Jesus.
C. Zacchaeus was saved over a dinner table.
D. The Thief was saved on the cross.
E. The Publican beat upon his chest.
F. The Eunuch of Acts 8 simply said, "I BELIEVE".
IV. NEW TESTAMENT FIGURES OF SPEECH WHICH SHOW THE SIMPLICITY OF SALVATION.
A. The New Testament compares getting saved to letting someone in the door.
   1. Rev. 3:20
   2. John 10:9, 14:6
B. It is like taking a drink of water. John

4. (The woman of Samaria)
C. It is like receiving a gift. Rom. 6:23; Eph. 2:8,9
D. It is compared with coming home. Luke 15
E. It is like saying yes to an invitation.
F. It is compared to saying yes to a proposal.
G. Jesus compares it to taking a bath. Titus 3:5
H. It is compared to putting money in the bank. II Tim. 1:12
1. A soul trusted to God is safe.
2. It is very simple to deposit it with Jesus.
V. OLD TESTAMENT TYPES SHOW THE SIMPLICITY OF SALVATION.
A. The coat of skins offered Adam - He simply took it.
B. The brazen serpent on a pole. Look

REDEEMED BY THE PRECIOUS BLOOD OF JESUS

TEXT: I Peter 1:18-21

I. THE REDEEMED. V 18
A. The Fact. I John 5:11-13
B. The Finding.
C. The Fathers.
II. THE REDEEMER. V 19
A. The Blood. Hebs. 9:22
B. The Blemishless. Hebs. 4:15; II Cor. 5:21
C. The Beauty. I Pet. 3:18
III. THE RESOLUTION. V 20
A. Foreordained.
B. Foundation. Rev. 13:8
C. Fulfillment.
IV. THE RESURRECTION. V 21
A. The Conversion. Rom. 10:9,10
B. The Conviction. Job 19:25
C. The Comfort. I Thess. 4:18

CHARLES SWILLING

SEND AN OFFERING: FOR THOSE WHO SEND AN OFFERING TO S.O.T.W. WE WILL EITHER SEND FORMS FOR KEEPING A RECORD OF SERMONS YOU PREACH OR A WORD LIST TO HELP YOU ALLITERATE YOUR SERMONS. THIS IS OUR WAY OF SAYING, THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THIS MINISTRY.
THE DECEITFULNESS OF SIN

TEXT: Hebrews 3:12-13

INTRODUCTION:

A. God loved "Sinners" before we loved Him!
Rom. 5:8
B. God sent Jesus to "save sinners from" sin, its ruin, its penalty, its damnation.
John 3:17
C. Jesus left heaven and came to planet earth on a "sinner seeking mission."
D. However let it be always remembered:
1. It required the Sacrificial death of Jesus and the shedding of His precious blood to save a sinner!
2. Let it also be remembered not one has been saved who did not first "receive Jesus into his/her heart by faith."
Heb. 11:6; John 1:12
3. Let it also be remembered that NOT ONE PERSON HAS EVER BEEN "FORGIVEN, CLEANSED FROM SIN, OR SAVED" WHO DID NOT REPENT OF HIS/HER SINS!
Luke 13:3
II Cor. 7:10; Acts 20:20-21

E. To help us fully see the "Deceitfulness of Sin" let us be reminded that almighty God had to turn His back on His Well-Beloved Son in order for him to die for sins of sinners!
1. God made His "sinless son" to be sin for us" that we might be "made the righteousness of God in him." II Cor. 5:21

I. BELOVED, SIN IS "DECEITFUL!"

A. Text
B. Jeremiah 17:9
C. All sin is against God! I John 3:4
D. Sin is a big, bad, devouring wolf in sheep's clothes.
E. Sin could turn every blessing into a curse.
F. Sin puts on another dress, and comes to us speaking a language which is not its own; and so, even those who would avoid as sin, may by degrees, be tempted to evil, and deluded into wrong.
1. The deceitfulness of sin is a most ruinous evil.
G. Sin has a singular power to deceive!
1. Consider the "steps" sin takes.
   Thought - Desire - Pre-meditation - Action
2. Sin justifies its actions by "faults of others."
3. Sin seduces people to think they can "atone for their sins by good works, church attendance, benevolence, etc."
4. Sin's first approach, "Distrust, Disrespect for God's Word, the Bible, and those who would seek to teach its message. (Parents, SS Teacher, Evangelists, Missionary, Pastor)
5. Sin deceives by its "Object".
   a. Steal to get ahead!
   b. Self gratification and pleasure.
6. Sin deceives by its "names".
   a. Murder branded as "fighting for a cause."
   b. Covetousness...Prudent thief
   c. Infidelity...advanced theology...higher education
   d. Indifference to God's truth...Liberality.
   e. Drinking becomes a "Sport."
   f. Gross immorality...becomes "individual expression."
7. Sin is deceptive in its arguments to justify!
   a. King Saul..."The people"
   b. Adam..."The woman which thou gavest me."
   c. I am as good as so and so...look what they did.
8. Sin is deceptive in its "REASONING".
   "Is it really wrong?" "We are not in the dark ages." "Times have changed." ----GOD'S LAW HASN'T!!!
9. Sin is deceptive in the "Excuses" offered. Business - Family - Faults of others, etc.
10. Sin is deceptive in its FLATTERY.
    "You can handle it," "You can go a little ways and then STOP, QUIT!" "YOU have your rights! To judge, think for yourself, to indulge, to speak your peace, etc..
11. Sin is deceitful in its "Promises".
    Wisdom - Looks good - Tastes good - It will turn you on! It will get you on a high! - It's fun! -
   a. Sin promises "liberty" and gives "slavery". Prov. 6:22; 23:32
   b. Sin promises "pleasure."
      1. Pays off in "guilt". Rom. 3:19; Psa. 51:2
      2. Leaves dirty! Psa. 51:7
      3. Gives misery and bitterness! Isa. 38:17

II. SIN IS DAMAGING!

A. It grieves the Holy Spirit. Eph. 4:30
B. It dishonors GOD OUR HEAVENLY FATHER!
C. It discredits JESUS OUR SAVIOUR!
D. It gives the ENEMY OF THE LORD "EXCUSE" TO BLASPHEME!
E. It destroys self-respect!
F. It destroys GODLY INFLUENCE OVER OTHERS!
G. It breaks HEARTS, HOMES, AND DESTROYS NATIONS!
H. It hinders "Answered Prayer!" Psalm 66:18
I. It hides the face of God from his people!
   Isa. 59:1-2

III. Sin works a "deadening effect" in one's conscience!
A. I Tim. 4:2
B. Eph. 4:17-19
C. Quotes: "The same sun that melts the wax hardens the clay." "Familiarity with sin makes the conscience dull, at length deadens sensibility." "A conscience seared as with a hot iron is the sure prelude to destruction."

IV. Sin dishonors.
A. Self: Rom. 1:24
B. God's Word. Isa. 5:20
C. Sin dishonors the body of Christ, which is his blood bought and "bride to be".
   1. To the Church of God at Corinth.
      I Cor. 11:22
   2. Listen to God! I Cor. 5:6
D. Sin dishonors God! Hear the prodigal.
   Luke 15:21

THE BENEFICIAL TEACHINGS
OF CHRIST (PART 24)

Subject: Professors and Not Possessors.
Text: Matthew 7:21-23

"Not every one 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 unto 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."

Every time I have preached or taught on this passage of Scripture there have been those who have come to me who were troubled about their relationship with Jesus. They were members of the church but yet, they had doubts about whether or not they were saved. Some of these, after counselling, Bible study, and prayer, realized that they were not saved and settled that matter through repentance of sin and faith in the Lord Jesus. There were others who had doubts but through the process of Bible study and prayer, were brought to the realization that they were saved but some unconfessed sin or uncommitted area of their lives were causing these doubts. I've also encountered individuals who would say that they didn't believe that a preacher or teacher should declare messages that would cause people to doubt or get upset. But my answer to this is that I would rather get upset and examine myself to make sure that I was saved than to be fooled and mistaken about my relationship and end up in hell. There are so many today who have the erroneous concept that because they belong and are members of some religious organization their all right. Nothing could be further from the truth. Are you a professor or possessor?

In the development of this exposition we'll notice three main areas:
I. The Warning.
II. The Working.
III. The Wailing.

"Not every one 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."

It's not enough to be religious, we must have righteousness. This is not a righteousness of our own but rather an imputed righteousness which has been provided for us in person of Jesus Christ. Man's righteousness will not work. Isaiah 64:6 gives us this synopsis regarding man's righteousness. "But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousness are as filthy rags: and we all do fade away; and our iniquities like the wind, have taken us away."

Notice what Jesus said a-
cere. I believe they really thought they were all right. Many people have the strange idea that as long as they are sincere everything is all right. The Scriptures, however, refute this claim. The Saviour of the New Testament was sincere in his belief and religion, and you'll notice by studying Acts 9 that he was sincerely wrong. Nicodemus is another example of a man who was sincere in his religion, but he was sincerely wrong. You'll note this as you study John 3. Man needs to be born again.

Just briefly, let me point out that there are some other parts of God's will for our lives, but these are related to rewards and are not connected with our soul's salvation. For instance, after we are saved, it's the will of our Father that we have the following: (1) Consecrated lifestyles - Rom. 12:1-2; (2) Clean lives - I Tim. 5:22; (3) Clean lips - Psa. 19:14; (4) Clean love - James 1:27; and (5) Clean living. I Thess. 5:22

II. THE WORKING. Matt. 7:22

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

These people, in this text, were doing things in the name of the Lord. Many people have the erroneous idea that anyone who uses the name of Jesus is a Christian, and therefore you should listen to everything they have to say. We need to realize that there is a big difference in someone using the Lord and His name; and someone knowing the Lord and allowing Him to use them.

Notice the principles of these people in the text. They were (1) Preaching or prophesying in His name; (2) Exemplifying power in His name; and (3) Doing many wonderful works in His name.

III. THE WAILING. Matt. 7:33

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

Notice in this area the SORROW, SEPARATION, and SIN.

The SORROW is seen in the expression, "I NEVER KNEW THEE." The people were not saved. The Bible emphatically declares that the Lord knows those who belong to Him. This refers to those who aren't saved. Study John 10:9-16. But here He says to this religious group - I never knew you. What sorrow there will be when they hear this!

Next, you notice the SEPARATION. This is seen in the expression "DEPART FROM ME." Brother, only the born again saved, redeemed Child of God who is pure in heart because of Christ, will enter into Heaven and enjoy the glories of God. They are possessors - Christ lives within them.

Finally, you notice the SIN. This is seen in the expression "YE THAT WORK INIQUITY." Some day your sin will catch up with you. Some day the imposters and merely professors will be exposed.

Dear friend, make sure you are a possessor of Christ and not just a professor of Christ.

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BIBLE CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

1A-D.B. WRIGHT  WALKING THRU THE VALLEY OF THE SHADOWS
1B-R. HOWARD  DON'T LET SATAN'S BUZZARDS GET YOUR BLESSINGS
2A-J. ANDERSON  MAN'S DISOBEDIENCE, GOD'S ANGER
2B-E. REYNOLDS  FIVE GREAT POWERS OF LIFE
3A-J. KIRKLAND  COPING WITH EVIL
3B-L. CRAWFORD  WHERE TO LIVE
4A-P. CLEVELAND  THE CHALLENGE OF JESUS
4B-B. THOMPSON  WITNESSING FOR JESUS CHRIST
5A-G. ROBERTS  VICTORY IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE
5B-D. CHAPPELL  WHEN GOD SETS YOUR FIELD ON FIRE
6A-D. WARD  THE SUPREME AUTHORITY IN OUR LIVES
6B-E. MOYERS  LABORING IN HIS HARVEST
7A-G. SPARKS  MAN'S RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD
7B-B. A. MORRIS  WHEN YOU THINK YOU HAVE DONE ALL YOU CAN DO
8A-C. SWILLING  MINISTERIAL BURNOUT
8B-J. STEVENS  SLEEPING GIANTS
9A-C. MCBRYDE  THE PRECIOUS PROMISES OF GOD
9B-C. JONES  WHAT ARE YOUR FEELINGS CONCERNING CHRIST IN THE WORLD?
10A-C. GREEN  RENEWING YOUR STRENGTH
10B-J. WILLIAMS  THE COMMUNICATION OF THE MESSAGE
11A-D.B. WRIGHT  MATERIAL ON ALLITERATION

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GOD'S PREROGATIVE WILL

Maxie Haynes

TEXT: Romans 9:19-29

I. GOD'S CREATIVE ABILITY. V 20, 21
The Divine prerogative of God in sovereign election is seen in His creative ability as demonstrated in the illustration of the Potter and clay. Jer. 18:1-6
A. The Potter's House - Confinement. V 2
B. The Potter's Wheel - pressure, purpose, and pattern. V 3
C. The Potter's Clay - Pliable, potential. V 6
D. The Potter's Task - Mated, Remold. V 4

II. GOD'S REDEMPTIVE ACTIVITY. V 22-24
The Divine prerogative of God's sovereign election is seen in God's redemptive activity within the vessels of mercy.
A. His Endurance with the wicked.
B. His Endowment of the vessel of mercy.

III. GOD'S DIRECTIVE AUTHORITY. V 25-29
The Divine prerogative of God's sovereign election is seen in the directing of God's Word in the fulfilling of prophecy.
A. In the election of the Gentiles. V 25-26
B. In the rejection of Israel. V 27-29