DO YOU HAVE THE HEAVENLY BIRTHMARK?

Text: Matt. 7:21-23

Intro. Jesus warned us that not every one who claims to be saved is saved. Millions think they are going to heaven that will not make it there. They are doing some of the things Jesus mentions in these verses, but they are not saved. Jesus dealt with the Pharisees and Sadducees quite a bit during His ministry. These people had quite a bit going for them, but they were not saved. Don't settle for anything less than a New Birth experience.

I. THEY WERE RELIGIOUS, BUT NOT REDEEMED.

A. They were religious.
   1. These called upon the Lord. They called Him Lord.
   2. They prophesied in the Lord's name. They preached and taught in the name of the Lord. They talked about the very word that testified of Jesus. John 5:39
   3. They cast out devils in the Lord's name.
   4. They did a lot of wonderful works in the LORD's name.
   5. These people were very zealous and religious. This kind of zeal would put us to shame. They were doing a lot of good things.
   6. A lot of religions do a lot of good things. That is why a lot of people can't see what is wrong with them.

B. They were not redeemed.
   1. Jesus will review their works and tell them plainly, I never knew you.
   2. They did not repent of sins. Luke 13:3 They did not believe or trust the Lord as personal Saviour. Acts 16:31
   3. These people were not born of God. They didn't have the birth mark. It showed they didn't have it in their daily lives.
   4. Eight times in Matthew 23 Jesus pronounces woes upon the scribes

and Pharisees. Jesus showed us what He demanded and how they fell short of the demand.

5. Religious people are not what God wants them to be. They cannot do what God wants them to do.

6. The New Birth is God's answer to man's needs.

II. THEY WERE REFORMED, BUT NOT RIGHTEOUS.

A. They were reformed.
   1. Religious people are good at changing habits, actions, and ways.

2. Change of habits does not make a person righteous. We had a duck that ate, ran, slept, and did everything with our dogs. That didn't make the duck a dog.
3. In Matthew 23 Jesus told the Pharisees that they were good at reforming the outside, but were still corrupt inside.
4. If you stop the bad habits, you just have a void or vacancy.
5. Those who seek to live the life of a Christian without the New Birth will feel hypocritical.
6. They can't measure up to what God wants them to be. They will always feel like a goat instead of a sheep.

B. They were not righteous.
1. These were busy cleaning and changing the outward man that God has given up on, but they were not righteous.
2. "But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness." Rom. 4:5
3. Those who believe in or on Jesus Christ are made righteous. Rom. 3:22
4. This righteousness is charged to ascribed to, or imputed to us.
5. We have none. We cannot become righteous. We are sinful, wicked, and evil. It must be imputed to us.

III. THEY HAD A REPUTATION, BUT NO REPENTANCE.
A. They had a reputation.
1. These had a reputation before the people. These people were familiar with the public.
2. Jesus knew of their ways. He knew them in the sense He had knowledge of their religious deeds.
3. Jesus told His disciples not to pray like the Pharisees. They prayed to be heard of man and Jesus said that was their reward. Matt. 6:1-8
4. They had a likeness to the genuine or real thing, but the likeness wasn't good enough.
5. They went to the services, prayed, studied the word, did good works etc., but were not born again.
6. The lack of the New Birth told off on them. It showed them up. They had a form, but no fruit.
B. They had not repented of sins.
1. The apostle said God has commanded all men everywhere to repent. Acts 17:30,31
2. Jesus said you must repent. Luke v. 13:3 Repent means to have a change of mind toward sin and God. These people didn't have a change of mind.
3. Repent means to admit you are a sinner, be remorseful or broken hearted over sin, ask for forgiveness, and turn from your sinful ways. Examine Ezek. 33:11
4. When you repent of sin, trust the Saviour, you will be born again and changed.
5. These religious people were cruel, mean, hateful, and empty. They were dry, lifeless, and dead religiously.

IV. THEY HAD A RECORD, BUT NO REMISSION.
A. They had a record.
1. Most of the ones who are not saved like to keep records of good deeds and works.
2. They tend to think that God will receive them for what they do, say, give, and how they act. They could have and should have read Isaiah 64:6.
3. The Pharisees were good at giving alms and praying prayers so men could see them.
4. They were keeping records. They wanted the praise of man. Remember Paul's record in Gal. 1:13,14.
5. Paul was a zealous Pharisee that was not saved who had a great record and zeal.
B. They had no remission.
1. Remission means forgiveness. They were not forgiven of sin because they had not repented or confessed their sins to God.
2. There is no remission or forgiveness without the shedding of blood. Hebs. 9:22
3. The Lord loves to forgive people who repent of their sins. He loves to cleanse of sin. He is more willing to forgive people of sin than people are willing to ask for forgiveness of sins.
4. God's keeping a better record than man. Man wants to remember the good things he did. God knows what kind of heart he has. Matt. 15:18,19
5. How sad for people to think that God will accept them for what they have done. God tells us we are sinful and wicked. The only way we can be cleansed is to ask for forgiveness.

THEY HAD A REFERENCE, BUT NO RECEPTION.
A. They had a reference.
1. They talked about God. They referred to Him.
2. Jesus said they rendered mouth and lip honor and service, but the heart was far from Him. Matt. 15:8,9
3. It is one thing to talk about God, it is another to talk to Him and with Him.
4. Read all the prayers you want to, God wants to have a heart to heart talk.
5. They had a religious talk and walk, but no life.

B. They had not received.
1. They hadn't received the truth about Jesus Christ. John 5:39
2. They hadn't received or accepted Jesus as Saviour.
4. Jesus makes children of those who accept or receive Him. John 1:11,12; Gal. 3:26
5. Most of the priests, Pharisees, and other religious leaders did not know Jesus as personal Saviour.

VI. THEY WILL RETIRE, BUT HAVE NO RESERVATION.
A. They will retire.
1. Even religious people will get old and die. They will live their allotted time and die.
2. Even religious people get sick and diseased and die.
3. Even religious people get killed in accidents or during crimes.
4. The time is coming when they will die as those who are not religious will die.
5. They will reach a time when they can't work or do any more good deeds.

B. They will not have a reservation.
1. If you want to go to heaven, you had better make your reservation to go there during this life time.
2. Only those who are begotten again in Christ have an inheritance waiting for them in heaven. I Pet. 1:3,4
3. How awful to reach the end of the way and not have a reservation for the heavenly home.
4. You better know that your reservation is made and you have confirmation of your reservation.
5. Many are counting on God receiving them for doing good deeds. God will not be looking for good people. He only allows righteous people to go to heaven.
6. Only those who are born again. Only those who are bought with the blood. Only saved people will go to heaven.
7. Have you made your reservations for that heavenly home yet. If not, why not now?

THE DANGER OF SIN
By Allen Lovercheck

Text: Psalm 51:1-19

I. SIN IS DANGEROUS.

A. Because it contaminates. V7
1. In that it blinds John 9:41
2. In that it binds John 8:33,34
3. In that it banishes Rom. 6:23

B. Because it confiscates V11
1. In that it takes away our joy and love of Christ. I Pet. 1:8
2. In that it takes away our happiness.
3. In that it takes away our speech.

C. Because it is conditional Hebs. 6:4-6
1. In that we have to choose to sin.
2. In that we have to choose to repent.

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I BELIEVE GOD
By Joe Brooks

Intro. We need to believe God in every part of our lives. Men have gotten away from the teachings of God's Word, from believing what God has said. This is the only way a person can be happy---to believe God.

I. I BELIEVE GOD TELLS THE TRUTH THAT MANKIND IS LOST.
   A. Man must be born again. John 3:3
   B. Man can do nothing for himself. Isa. 64:6
   C. Works, baptism, or self-righteousness will not save. Eph. 2:8-10
   D. Man has needed a Saviour since the fall of Adam and Eve.
   E. To believe God man needs faith. Rom. 1:16

II. I BELIEVE GOD TELLS THE TRUTH OF A DOOMED SINNER. Luke 16:19-31; Rev. 20:11-15
   A. We don't merit God's grace.
   B. What will God say to the lost sinner in judgment? Matt. 25:41
   C. There shall be gnashing teeth. Matt. 22:13
   D. The rich man if he could would warn sinners of hell.
   E. Is your name written in the book of life? Rev. 20:15
   F. Revelation 14:11

III. I BELIEVE GOD WILL REQUIRE THE BLOOD.
   A. God will require the blood of those we do not warn about hell. Ezek. 33:8
   B. Every knee will bow and every tongue will confess. Rom. 14:7-10
   C. We need to be warning people of hell today because they are lost and God will require their blood at our hands.
   D. I believe God.

IV. I BELIEVE GOD CAN SAVE MEN.
   A. He can save to the uttermost. Hebs. 7:25
   B. Confess with thy mouth and believe in thine heart. Rom. 10:9, 10
   C. Saved by grace. Eph. 2:8
   D. Why do I believe God can save? Two reasons:
      1. God's Word says He can.
      2. I trusted Him and I know I am saved.

Con: Do you believe God? You had better believe Him.

GOING HOME AFTER THE REVIVAL
By Gene Yates

Text: II Chron. 29:1-7
Intro.
A. Relate Hezekiah's revival.
B. He set things in order.
C. The people rejoiced.
D. A real revival produces a time of praising the Lord and rededicating service to God.
E. How will you go home? Surrendered or stubborn?

I. WILL YOU GO HOME SURRENDERED? I Sam. 3:3-10
   A. Surrendered will mean you will have the same attitude as the apostle Paul.
      1. Lord, what will you have me to do?
      2. Surrendered means you will have the same loyalty as Steven.
   B. Surrendered means you will be obedient like Peter--at thy word I will.
      1. My sheep hear my voice.
      2. Surrendered means that His service means more than life, not my will but thine be done.

II. WILL YOU GO HOME STUBBORN? I Sam. 15:13-15
   A. This tells how king Saul was not willing to surrender his own will for God's way.
   B. Ahab knew God but surrendered to the devil because he was stubborn.
      1. Lot
      2. Lot's wife

III. WILL YOU GO HOME SATISFIED OR SORRY? Psa. 32:1
   A. The only way to go home satisfied is to know that every sin has been forgiven.
   B. Have you confessed?
      1. Of being unfaithful
      2. Of being unfruitful
   C. Have you confessed of all the sins you are guilty of?
      1. Of lack of prayer
      2. Of robbing God
   D. Jacob was never satisfied until he went back to Bethel.
      1. Here he confessed his wrongs and failures to the Lord.
      2. After this Bethel experience, he went home satisfied. Gen. 35:1-7

IV. WILL YOU GO HOME SAVED OR LOST? Luke 18:10-14
   A. Here the Bible tells of two men who had the same opportunity.
      1. One went home saved.
      2. The other went home lost.
   B. Acts 16:32-36 tells how a hard
hearted jailor went home saved.
C. Mark 10:17-22 tells of the rich young ruler.
1. Who went home lost and sad.
2. It is always sad when a sinner goes home after a revival still lost.

II. ONE CAN REJOICE IN THE PREACHING OF THE GOSPEL BECAUSE IT IS A GOSPEL OF TRANSFORMATION.

A. John 14:6
B. John 10:10
C. I John 5:11-13
D. This ETERNAL LIFE is JESUS GIVING HIMSELF TO LIVE IN US! John 10:28; Gal. 2:20
E. This is a MYSTERY, but it is the SAVED ONE'S SURE AND STEADFAST HOPE which serves as AN ANCHOR OF THE SOUL!

III. ONE CAN REJOICE IN GOSPEL PREACHING BECAUSE IT IS THE GOSPEL OF TRANSFORMATION.

A. It is the gospel of the NEW BIRTH AND THE NEW BEGINNING. I John 5:1; John 1:12
1. Remember IT IS A BIRTH IN THE SPIRIT! John 3:6
2. It is a MUST to SEE or ENTER God's kingdom. John 3:3, 5, 7
3. It is a birth that PRODUCES A NEW PERSON WITH NEW FRUIT.
   II Cor. 5:17; Gal. 5:22, 23
B. Apart from this TRANSFORMATION one is ruled by SATAN, SIN, AND SELF-DESIRE.
   1. Eph. 2:2, 3
   2. THREEPOLD SINNERS...by nature, choice, and practice!
C. Having now been TRANSFORMED (NOT REFORMED) BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD we are in Christ.
   1. New creatures with DIVINE PURPOSE.
   2. Indwelt by a NEW LOVE. I John 4:19; 3:14; John 13:34, 35
   3. New creatures with NEW DESIRES.
      Rom. 10:1
   4. New creatures with NEW POTENTIAL.
      Rom. 8:31; Phil. 4:13; II Cor. 9:8; John 15:5

IV. ONE CAN REJOICE IN GOSPEL PREACHING BECAUSE IT IS A GOSPEL OF TRANSMISSION.

A. I am no longer in the battle alone. John 10:4; Hebs. 13:5; Gal. 2:20; Psa. 23
B. I live and serve IN THE POWER OF THE GREATER ONE!!! I John 4:4
C. I live, labor, and suffer if need be because I am SUSTAINED BY THE GREAT SOURCE, THE VINE!
   John 15:5

V. ONE CAN REJOICE IN GOSPEL PREACHING BECAUSE IT IS THE GOSPEL OF TRANSLATION!

A. It is a gospel of DEPARTURE FOR
A BETTER WORLD!
1. Abraham LOOKED FOR A CITY WHICH HATH FOUNDATIONS, WHOSE BUILDER AND MAKER IS GOD.
2. Job and David looked for a CHANGED tabernacle or body to live in. Job 14:14; Psa. 17:15
3. Paul and John preached it! I Cor. 15:51-54
5. Again Paul speaks of the departure with SATISFACTION and ANTICIPATION! II Tim. 4:6-8

III. THEY WERE SAVED BY AN UNBIASED GOD.
A. God had sent Jonah to the Gentiles.
B. The Ninevites had repented and believed Him.
C. Was God surprised by their repentance?
   1. Was the destruction of Nineveh an evil plot by God?
   2. Did He have to repent of this wrong He had planned?
   3. This is a human explanation for a godly characteristic.

IV. THE REVIVAL WAS LED BY AN UNTANKFUL EVANGELIST.
A. He had a successful ministry to Israel.
B. He did not want to go to Nineveh for two reasons.
   1. They were Gentiles and he was a Jew.
   2. They were the enemies of his own country.
C. He did not want the Ninevites to repent because he knew then that God would not destroy them.
D. After three days and nights in the whale's belly, he must have been quite a sight.
   1. Lost most of his hair.
   2. Bleached out skin.
   3. Red splatters on the skin.
E. Imagine a man in our time having the same results in a revival effort? What would he write home about?
F. Not Jonah, he was ready to die. 4:1-3
   1. Angry-burned
   2. Told God, "I told you so."
G. God responded with a question. V4
H. God prepared an object lesson for Jonah.

**REVIVAL IN SPITE OF THE EVANGELIST**

By Richard Spruiell

Text: Jonah 3:1-10

I. NINEVEH WAS AN UNLIKELY CITY.

A. It was an ancient Assyrian city, the capital city of the empire.
B. It was actually composed of four cities together making up the "great city of Nineveh." Gen. 10:11,12
C. Outer wall was 50 feet high, 75 miles long, and wide enough at the top for three chariots to drive abreast of one another, which they did 24 hours a day.
D. It took three days to walk across the city. V3

II. JONAH WAS AN UNWILLING PROPHET.

A. He was a very popular prophet of the northern kingdom, Israel, in the time of Jereboam II.
B. He had run from God's call to preach to the Ninevites.
C. He had been swallowed by a whale and deposited on the beach after three days and nights in the whale's belly.
D. When God commissioned him the second time, he went to Nineveh.
E. His message was, "In forty days, Nineveh will be destroyed."
F. Everyone in Nineveh repented. V5

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MEEKNESS

Text: I Tim. 6:11

INTRODUCTION:

A. The VITAL need - christians need to establish specific goals and pursue them relentlessly depending upon the Lord to help them achieve them.

B. The VIEW of today's society makes this particular subject in this lesson difficult to accept.
1. The reason is because the popular heroes of today's society is the MACHO man and the MILITANT woman.
2. The scriptures however should be the basis for christian behaviour.
3. Evaluate the scriptures not in the light of contemporary thought but evaluate contemporary thoughts in the light of the Scriptures.

C. The VARIED opinions about meekness.
1. Many think that meekness is weakness.

I. THE DEFINITION OF MEEKNESS

A. The EXPLANATION
1. Meekness is a demonstration of an inner resource of moral courage and strength.
2. Meekness is strength under control.

B. The EXAMPLES - 2 outstanding illustrations of meekness.
1. Moses - Num. 12: (Note specifically V3)
   a. A model of meekness is Moses.
   b. Exemplify - they tried to cut him down to size - questioned his authority.
   Note Moses' meekness.
   1. He exemplified mildness in the face of fierce opposition.
   2. God spoke on Moses' behalf.
   c. God was saying - Moses is the authority spokesman - Miriam and Aaron have their roles and tasks to perform.
   d. But Moses is my special chosen vessel.
   e. A meek person is one who is humble about the authority and responsibility that God has invested them with. He's willing to let God speak in His own way to re-enforce the authority of that man.

2. Jesus - Matt. 21:1-5 - The essence of meekness is seen in Him.
   a. A King but always kind.
   b. A sovereign but always simple.
   c. A Lord but always lived a lowly life.
   d. Omnipotent but never overpowering people.

C. The EXPOUNDING - meekness is a product of the inward work of the Holy Spirit. Gal. 5:23

II. THE DESIRABILITY OF MEEKNESS. Matt. 11:28-30

A. Desired because meekness is related to Christ-like
1. To be like Christ or to know more about Christ should be the desire of every believer.
2. The critics say that a meek person will never accomplish much - but Christ achieved more than all the rest put together.

B. Desired because meekness is related to discipleship.
1. Illus. - The yoke of oxen. (Young ox disciplined by the old stout ox)
2. Learning to do things His way - going in the right direction.
3. His way - the lowly and humble way.

C. Desired because meekness holds promise of soul rest.

D. Desired because meekness relates to blessedness. Matt. 5:5

E. Desired because meekness is related to the fruit of the Spirit. Gal. 5:23

III. THE DEMONSTRATION OF MEEKNESS.(3 areas where meekness is to be demonstrated.)

A. In CHRISTIAN MINISTRY!
1. The ministry of REBUKE. I Cor. 4:21 "WHAT WILL YE? SHALL I COME UNTO YOU WITH A ROD, OR IN LOVE, AND IN THE SPIRIT OF MEEEKNESS?"
   a. He desired to come to them in meekness - It was up to them.
   b. He had to rebuke them and he wanted to do this in a mild or humble way but how he would do it depended on whether they
responded or reacted.
c. Christian rebuke is necessary but it needs to be done if at all possible in the spirit of meekness and love.

2. The ministry of RESTORATION. Gal. 6:1 "BRETHREN, IF A MAN BE OVER TAKEN IN A FAULT, YE WHICH ARE SPIRITUAL, RESTORE SUCH AN ONE IN THE SPIRIT OF MEEKNESS: CONSIDERING THYSELF, LEST THOU ALSO BE TEMPTED."


B. In CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE! I Pet. 3: 1-4,7 VI "LIKEWISE, YE WIVES, BE IN SUBJECTION TO YOUR OWN HUSBANDS: THAT, IF ANY OBEY NOT THE WORD, THEY ALSO MAY WITHOUT THE WORD BE WON BY THE CONVERSATION OF THE WIVES:" V2 "WHILE THEY BEHOLD YOUR CHASTE CONVERSATION COUPLED WITH FEAR." V3 "WHOSE ADORNING LET IT NOT BE THAT OUTWARD ADORNING OF PLAITING THE HAIR, AND OF WEARING OF GOLD, OR OF PUTTING ON OF APPAREL:" V4 "BUT LET IT BE THE HIDDEN MAN OF THE HEART, IN THAT WHICH IS NOT CORRUPTABLE, EVEN THE ORNAMENT OF A MEEK AND QUIET SPIRIT, WHICH IS IN THE SIGHT OF GOD OF GREAT PRICE." V7 "LIKEWISE, YE HUSBANDS, DWELL WITH THEM ACCORDING TO KNOWLEDGE, GIVING HONOUR UNTO THE WIFE, AS UNTO THE WEAKER VESSEL, AND AS BEING HEIRS TOGETHER OF THE GRACE OF LIFE: THAT YOUR PRAYERS BE NOT HINDERED."

C. In CHRISTIAN MANNERS! Titus 3:2
1. This deals with Christian courtesy and manners.
2. This will be exhibited by meek spiritual people.

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THE PERILS OF THESE TIMES By Elvin Crocker

Text: II Tim. 3:1-5

Introduction:
1. Perilous means dangerous, but it also means difficult.
2. Paul actually let Timothy and us know that difficult times would come.
3. Difficult times draw on the Lord's churches to accomplish what they should.
4. Difficult for Christians to be what they ought to be.
5. Difficult to win souls to Christ.
6. Let's notice a few perils of these times.

I. SELFISHNESS IS A PERIL. V2
A. Many scriptures cut us down to our size. Gal. 6:2, 3
B. Some effects of selfishness:
   1. Greed. Isa. 5:8; Mark 10:37
   2. Disregard for others' rights. Ezek. 34:18
C. The cure is in following Jesus. Matt. 16:24

II. INGRATITUDE IS A PERIL. V2b
A. An old fact which increases. Ezek. 16:17, 18; Luke 17:17, 18; Rom. 1:21
B. The way ingratitude to God is manifested:
   1. By disobedience. Hebs. 10:25
   2. By disregard Acts 1:8
   3. By disrespect Prov. 3:9, 10

III. PLEASURE-SEEKING IS A PERIL. V4b
A. This accounts for much of negligence of Christian responsibilities.
B. The result is:
   3. Spiritual death. I Tim. 5:6

IV. FORMALISM IS A PERIL. V5
A. Formalism appeals to the flesh.
B. There is no substitute for God's power and presence. Eccl. 5:1
   1. Takes HIS power to regenerate. Titus 3:5
   2. Takes HIS power to work out problems. James 1:5
   3. Takes HIS power to accomplish any lasting good. Rom. 14:17

Conclusion:
1. In times like these, you need a Saviour.
2. In times like these you need an anchor. V13-15