

I NEVER KNEW YOU

Matthew 7:21-23

By Joseph Edwards II

Matt 7:21 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. 22 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? 23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work lawlessness.

Question: why aren't these believers who call Jesus "Lord" saved?

I will answer this question in this post, but before I do, I want to scripturally explain how truth is given to us in God's Word.

Isa 28:10 For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little: 11 For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. 12 But the word of the LORD was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little; that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken.

Truth is given to us in scripture "here a little and there a little" and "line upon line". And because it is, it must be assembled like stone blocks in a building in order to find the whole truth:

Psa 119:160 The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever.

Not only is Truth given to us in bits and pieces, it is also written in another tongue. This "another tongue" is the spiritual language of Christ.

Christ, who is the Word of God, says that the words He speaks are "spirit".

John 6:63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

Paul, like the other New Testament writers, also taught Truth in this manner. Paul says that he teaches in a mystery, with words that have different meanings than what "man's wisdom teaches". These words with different meanings come from Christ's spiritual language.

1Cor 2:7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:

1Cor 2:13 These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

As I answer the question above, please keep in mind that Truth is hidden in Christ's spiritual language and is given to us in bits and pieces that must be assembled.

Back to the question of why these believers are not saved:

They are not saved because these believers “work lawlessness”. In other words, these believers are still under the Law.

The Law was given to us by God to prove that we can never be good enough to restore our relationship with the Father. The Law is mankind’s attempt to make ourselves righteous before God by our own works. But our own works can only make us appear to be righteous from the outside. Christ used the analogy of a whited sepulchre in **Mat 23:27** to make this point. He said:

Mat 23:27 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men’s bones, and of all uncleanness.

This practice of “works” always fails. Adam was the first to try it by making an apron of figs leaves. And like the whited sepulcher, Adam was still full of dead men’s bones and all uncleanness. His works failed to restore his relationship with the Father. And like Adam, we also instinctively try to utilize our own works to make ourselves appear righteous before God. That instinct is built into our carnal nature. That is why Christ said this:

Luke 5:39 No man also having drunk old wine straightway desireth new: for he saith, the old is better.

In the spiritual language of Christ, the Old Wine represents the blood of the animal sacrifices under the Old Covenant of Law. This covenant is man’s attempt to be acceptable to Christ through their own works. This approach to Christ cannot save a person. The New Wine represents Christ’s blood which He shed for the New Covenant of Grace through Faith. This covenant is 100% the works of Christ and is the only approach to Christ which will save a person. It is for this reason that the believers who called Jesus Lord in **Mat 7:21**, are still under the Law. They are still being governed by their carnal nature and approaching Christ through their own works rather than approaching Him by Faith.

So why is their carnal nature still ruling them?

The Early Rain of the Spirit, which these believers received from Christ when they were first called out from the world, is not sufficient for them to understand and accept the truth of God. They were left spiritually blind and in need of more faith. As a result, the Old Man’s deadly head wound which came from the Sword of Christ is healed (**Rev 13:3**) by Satan’s deceptions. At this point, the believers will fall away. They will have committed the sin that leads to death –

the sin of following the ways of Satan and approaching Christ by works. This causes the Abomination of Desolation to occur within the believer and they lose their salvation.

After having tasted the New Wine, these called out believers find that they prefer the Old Wine. Because of this preference, they return to a “works” based belief system. Falling away happens to everyone after they have tasted the New Wine.

Since mankind’s works cannot make us righteous before God, it is necessary for Christ to come to us a second time. This event is called the Second Coming of Christ when He brings the Latter Rain of the Spirit.

Heb 9:28 So Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

The second coming of Christ is the same event which happened to the Apostles in the upper room on the Day of Pentecost and is the same event which happened to Paul after being in Damascus for three days. Scripture also refers to this event as the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

In this present age, the second coming of Christ is reserved ONLY for persons who have been chosen from the foundation of the world. They will be Christ’s First-fruits of His harvest of mankind. When Christ comes a second time to His Elect, He will bring the Latter Rain of the Spirit. With this second filling of the Holy Spirit, the judgment of the Day of the Lord will arrive. As Christ appears, the brightness of His appearing will destroy the Man of Sin whom they have become under Satan’s deceptions. After the Man of Sin’s destruction, the believer will approach Christ by the New Covenant of Grace through Faith.

The New Covenant is a spiritual covenant and Christ’s works are spiritual works (they happen within us). And since we have no ability to change ourselves spiritually, these works can ONLY be performed by Christ. Christ is the Savior and our salvation is 100% His work, “lest any man should boast” (**Eph 2:9**).

Once a believer understands that they cannot save themselves by their own works, they will seek to approach Christ by faith alone so that they can enter into the rest of Christ. This change of belief systems happens when a called out believer receives the Latter Rain of the Spirit and judgment. It is their moment of conversion.

With all that said, some people will say “what about this scripture below (and others like it), doesn’t it contradict what you have stated above”?

The answer is NO.

Act 2:17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: 18 And on my servants and on my hand-maidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy: 19 And I

will show wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath: blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke: 20 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come: 21 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

In the full context of the scripture above, the profession of faith is being made when the believer is in the process of receiving the Latter Rain of the Spirit, not the Early Rain. The spiritual events described above depict the process of conversion. Peter quoted these verses on the Day of Pentecost when the Latter Rain of the Spirit fell on the 120 Elect believers in the upper room:

Acts 2:14 But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words: 15 For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day. 16 But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; 17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: 18 And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy: 19 And I will show wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke: 20 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable Day of the Lord come: 21 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

“Fire” and “vapor of smoke” are the spiritual terms used for Christ’s judgment of our Man of Sin/Old Man. This judgment is described in **Rev 18:9-24**. This is the time of judgment when our worsened carnal nature (the Great Harlot) is destroyed. It is destroyed quickly (in “one hour”) so that we can come out from approaching Christ by our own works and start approaching Him by faith alone. This is the point when we begin walking by Faith. Now we can truly say that Jesus is Lord because we know Him and He knows us. Before that time, Christ was veiled from our understanding. And because of this spiritual blindness, we accepted the ways of Satan. In other words, we committed adultery with Satan and lost our marriage relationship with Christ.

The story of the Woman Taken in Adultery (**John 8:3-10**) is a teaching by Christ that shows when a believer comes out from being under the Law. A short presentation on this story can be found in the paper entitled “The Great Mystery of the Church”.