

I NEVER KNEW YOU

Matthew 7:21-23

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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.

Why aren't these believers who call Jesus "Lord" saved?

There is a sin that leads to the spiritual death of an unconverted believer (babe) and that is the sin of mixing works with faith. This is the crooked way.

1John 5:16 If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it.

Gal 5:3 For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law. 4 Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.

The only acceptable way to approach Christ is by faith alone. This is the straight way. When a believer approaches Christ in this manner, the blood of Christ will wash away their sins (**Acts 22:16**) and they will come out from under the law of sin and death which used to condemn them.

The Old Covenant of Law was given to the Nation of Israel to prove that no one can ever be good enough to be acceptable to God by their own works. A person's works can only make them appear to be righteous from the outside. But on the inside, they will remain unclean.

Christ used the analogy of a whited sepulcher in Mat 23:27 to make this point.

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

The practice of mixing works with faith always fails. Adam was the first to try it when he made an apron of figs leaves to cover his nakedness. "Nakedness" is a spirit word which represents sinfulness. And like in the analogy of the whited sepulcher, Adam's sin still remained and left him full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness.

And just like Adam, all mankind instinctively tries to cover their own sins with the works of their own hands. This instinct is built into the religious spiritual nature of mankind's marred spirit.

This verse applies:

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

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. When a believer realizes that their own works can never make them acceptable, this knowledge will be their schoolmaster which will lead them to Christ and New Covenant of Grace through Faith.

Gal 3:24 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

The New Wine represents Christ's blood which He shed for the New Covenant of Grace through Faith. This covenant is based on having faith in Christ to do 100% the works of for salvation.

Since the believers in Mat 7:21 are still under the law (they practice lawlessness), they have to be mixing the Old Wine with the New Wine since that is the only sin that will cause Christ to reject a believer.

Prov 23:26 My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways. 27 For a whore is a deep ditch; and a strange woman is a narrow pit. 28 She also lieth in wait as for a prey, and increaseth the transgressors among men. 29 Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes? 30 They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine. 31 Look not thou upon the wine when it is red (Old Wine), when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself (man's works) aright. 32 At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder.

Final comment: 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 of sin and death. A short presentation on this story can be found in my paper entitled "The Great Mystery of the Church".