

## NOT EVERYONE GETS TO GO TO HEAVEN

**Matt. 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 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.*

**Introduction:** You might not think it, but our world is very *heavenly minded*. That is a strange statement considering just how wretched and wicked our world is.

- Yet, in a recent CNN poll, it was discovered that **81%** of the people asked believed in a literal heaven where people lived with God after death.
- **61%** of those polled said that they believed they would go to Heaven immediately when they died.
- **88%** believed that they would see departed family and friends when they arrived in Heaven.

I find these numbers amazing in light of the wickedness of our society. Of course, there is another side to this story.

- Of those polled **6%** believed Heaven could be reached by doing good works.
- **57%** believed that Heaven was available to all who place their faith in God and did good works.
- **34%** believed that Heaven was for those who had faith in God alone.

*Now, here is where problems begin to appear.*

- **63%** of those who responded believed they were going to Heaven, but they cited the wrong method for getting there.

I want you to know today that ***Not Everyone Goes To Heaven*** when they die! I know we want to believe they do, but the Word of God says something far different. Not everyone who thinks they are going to Heaven really is. In what is, without question, the most important area of any person's life, most people are sincerely wrong concerning what they believe about salvation.

As Jesus drew near to the end of the *Sermon on the Mount*, He takes the time to remind people of the seriousness of their salvation. He wanted everyone who heard Him to be sure that they were genuinely converted.

In his book, *Heaven*, Randy Alcorn lists some different beliefs about Heaven...

- Australian aborigines believe Heaven is a distant island beyond the horizon.
- Polynesians believe that after death they go to the sun.
- Indians believe it is where their spirits hunt spirits of buffalo.
- Egyptians believe that maps would guide them to the future world.
- Romans see it as Elysium or the Elysian Fields where horses graze.
- Buddhists... Nirvana
- Islam... Paradise (72 virgins)
- Vikings... Valhalla
- Klingons... Sto'Vo'Kor

There are many different beliefs when it comes to Heaven, but in our text we read what some have to say about it.

### I. What Many Will Say

**a. Notice how they address him.**

*Lord, Lord.....*

There will be much calling on the Lord, and calling out his name on that day. Can't you hear folks crying out.....But Lord.....Wait a minute Lord.....but it will be too late !

**b. Notice how they appeal to him.**

.....*have we not prophesied in thy name.*

People will appeal to the Lord expecting to receive an affirmative answer.

**c. Notice how they argue with him.**

.....*in thy name have cast out devils ? and in thy name done many wonderful works ?*

## II. What God Will Say.

**a. He speaks words of denial to them.....I never knew you.**

*It is not that God has previously known them or ever known them.....but I never knew you !*

Though God knows our name, and knows the number of the hairs on our head, he wants to "know" us. He wants us to know him as Father, and he wants to know us as children ! How sad it would be to stand before God, and hear him say I never knew you !

**b. He speaks words of departure to them.....Depart from me**

Such final words ! To be separated from the presence of God forever will be the worst part of hell !

**c. He speaks words of discernment to them...Ye that work iniquity**

They appeal to him with offerings of what they deem good works, but God's discernment is always righteous. They were workers of iniquity instead because they had not obeyed the gospel.

**Isa 64:6** *But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags;.....*

## III. How To Avoid Hearing These Words.

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.

"I Never Knew You" is the same as God saying "You Never Knew Me"

**a. It is not the testimony of our lips that will save us.**

They said to him Lord, Lord !

They even prophesied in his name !

I never you: depart from me.....

**b. It is not the toil of our labors that will save us.**

They did many wonderful works in the name of the Lord.

I never you: depart from me.....

**c. It is our trust in the Lord that saves us.**

If we are trusting in any other person or thing to get us to save us, and get us to heaven, then we will hear the words.....I never knew you: depart from me

Jesus said in vs. 21....."but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven."

What is the will of God concerning salvation....being saved ?

1. It is **His Will** that we be saved. 2 Pet 3:9

2. It is **His Work** that we believe on Jesus John 6:29

3. It is through **His Way** that we are saved. John 14:6

A kindergarten teacher gave her class a "show and tell" assignment. Each student was to bring an object to share representing their religion.

- The first student got up in front of the class and said, "My name is Benjamin and I am Jewish and this is a Star of David."

- The second said, "My name is Mary. I'm Catholic and this is a Rosary."
- The third said, "My name is Tommy. I'm a Baptist, and this is a bucket of fried chicken."

**Here we find one final object that represents what kind of Christian you are.** Jesus gives a set of contrasts of "two" things...

1. Two Gates. Strait and Wide. Vs. 13.
2. Two Ways. Broad and Narrow. Vs. 14.
3. Two Classes. Many and Few. Vs. 14.
4. Two Destinations. Life and Destruction. Vs. 13.
5. Two Trees. Good and Corrupt. Vs. 17.
6. Two Fruits. Good and Evil. Vs. 17.
7. Two Houses. Vs. 24.
8. Two Foundations. Rock and Sand. Vs. 25 & 26.
9. Two Builders. Wise and Foolish. Vs. 24.
10. Two Storms. Rain and Wind. Vs. 25.
11. Two Results. One stood, the other fell. Vs. 27.

All of humanity falls into one of these many two categories. In this section of the sermon, Jesus speaks of the two choices, the two courses, and the two consequences. We are confronted as no other time in Scripture with the sobering question, which one of the two are you?

On July 17, 1938, pilot Douglas Groce Corrigan took off from Brooklyn's Floyd Bennett Field. He carried two chocolate bars, two boxes of fig bars, a quart of water, and a U.S. map with the rout from New York to California marked out. His goal was to fly non-stop from New York to California. Corrigan took off in his

modified Curtiss Robin. It was a foggy morning. He flew into the haze and disappeared. Twenty-eight hours he landed, not in California, but in Dublin, Ireland. He instantly became a national hero because it was a feat that everyone said could not be done, but from henceforth he was known as Wrong Way Corrigan.

As Jesus was nearing the end of His sermon on the mount, He talks about the danger of going the wrong way. Each person is going either the right way or the wrong way. It all depends, using the analogy that Jesus gives us, on which gate we have gone through.