

STEWARDS OF THE MYSTERIES OF GOD – BY ERIC D. SMITH

CHAPTER 11 - BUILDING ON A SOLID FOUNDATION

“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.”
– Matthew 7:21-23

There are many churches that teach for a person to be saved, all they need to do is believe in Jesus, confess they are a sinner, accept Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior, and they are saved. Then the preacher shakes their hand as he receives them into the fellowship of other “believers”. But Jesus said that *many* people will come to Him on the day of judgment thinking that they are saved, only to find themselves facing eternal damnation! Jesus informs us that there will be many people who were so assured that they were saved that they were willing to question Jesus’ divine judgment. They truly believed that they were going to make it into Heaven, having faith in what they had been taught in a “Christian” church.

An argument may be made that these *many* people in Matthew 7:22 are not really Christians at all but are hypocrites and pretenders. But notice that these people obviously did not think that they were hypocrites, or else they would not have questioned Jesus in His judgment. They evidently believed that they should have made it into Heaven.

Furthermore, they were even able to bring forth an impressive list of spiritual accomplishments that they did for the Kingdom of God. These accomplishments are outlined in detail in the scriptures: *“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?”* (Matthew 7:22). Notice that these works were all done in His name, referring to that powerful name of Jesus. They had prophesied in His name. They had cast out devils in His name. They had done many wonderful works in His name.

Questions, Discussions and Notes

1. Does the Bible tell us about people in judgment who thought they were saved but find themselves cast away from Jesus?
2. Do you think these people lived an earthly life that even other people would consider them as “Christians”?
3. Do you think that these lost people were really living as hypocrites? Explain your answer.
4. List the spiritual achievements that these lost people did while living on earth as “Christians”.
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.

Regardless of the accomplishments done in the name of Jesus, there is noticeably one major statement concerning salvation that is absent from their testimony. They did not say that they were water baptized in the name of Jesus. Is water baptism in the name of Jesus really that important? Peter stood up on the Day of Pentecost in Acts chapter two and said, “. . . *Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins . . .*” (Acts 2:38). It is our faith in obeying this commandment in the Word of God that brings about the removal (or remission) of our sins.

This demonstrates two key lessons we need to learn from this dreadful scenario on the day Jesus judges mankind. First, a lack of knowledge of what is necessary to get to Heaven cannot be used as an excuse to circumvent obedience. In Hosea 4:6, God warns, “*My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee . . .*” Not knowing what the Bible declares does not exempt you from damnation. The second lesson is that having faith that you are saved does not make you saved. People can be absolutely convinced in their mind that they are saved but believing that you are saved does not save you.

Jesus continues to teach a parable in Matthew 7:24-27. Notice that Jesus labels one man as wise and the other as foolish. The difference between the two men was whether they obeyed the Word of God or not after they heard it. In the parable, both men built a house. But there is no indication that there were any differences in their houses. Both men had a storm hit their house. There is no indication that the storms were of different intensities. There is no indication that the men were in different parts of the country. The only difference that Jesus tells us of is the foundations that they built upon, one foundation being ROCK and the other foundation being SAND.

5. Is water baptism in the name of Jesus really that important? Explain your answer.

6. List the two lessons we can learn from the judgment given in Matthew chapter 7.
 - 1.

 - 2.

7. What did the author indicate was the difference between the Rock and the Sand, and thus the difference between the two men?

8. Is it dangerous for a Christian to obey only bits and pieces of the plan of salvation?

9. Have a discussion on what is necessary to make it to Heaven so you don't find yourself being turned away like those “Christians” in Matthew 7.

*If you have never heard of the salvation truths brought forth in this book,
or if you have not obeyed because you have been taught differently, then there is
still time for you to change your foundation before you stand before Jesus in judgment.
You have a choice while you are still living.
Do not find yourself dumbfounded facing eternity.*