

Who Will Really Be Saved?

Introduction

- 1. Most people have a broad concept of who will be saved, living for eternity in heaven.**
 - A. This is in contrast to the teaching of Jesus while He was on earth striving to convince all men to listen and obey His truth.**

Matthew 7:13-14 Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

- 2. The following charts and information are taken from an October 2005 ABC News Poll about Heaven:**
 - A. Show PowerPoint charts**
- 3. People will either accept the standard of man or the standard of God.**
 - A. Every person demonstrates which one they use, based upon their religious actions.**

The Standard of Man

1. **Sincerity:** Many believe that sincerity is all that is required for one to be in a proper relationship with God.

A. However, when one looks at the Bible and considers the example of the apostle Paul, who persecuted the church, they will find that he said this:

Acts 23:1

Acts 26:9-11 "Indeed, I myself thought I must do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. This I also did in Jerusalem, and many of the saints I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I cast my vote against them. And I punished them often in every synagogue and compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly enraged against them, I persecuted them even to foreign cities.

B. It was not until AFTER his conversion to Christ that he realized how serious his crime was.

1 Corinthians 15:9 For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

1 Timothy 1:15 This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.

2. **Zeal:** Many believe that having zeal is sufficient for salvation.

A. However, we must consider the example of the Israelites, who were zealous for God, but not according to knowledge (Romans 10:1-3).

B. They were substituting human traditions in the place of the divine commandments of God.

Matthew 15:1-9

3. **Study:** There are many people who strive to understand mysterious secrets, make themselves weary with study. They believe that God is pleased with all their “study” efforts.

A. It is sad that so many who “study,” in reality, have their mind closed to the simplicity of truth.

Matthew 13:11-16

B. Like waves of the sea, they are carried about by every wind of doctrine, seduced by the trickery of men and the craftiness of deceitful plotting (Ephesians 4:11-16).

1) The apostle Paul writes and says this to Timothy:

2 Timothy 3:5-9 **having a form of godliness but denying its power.** And from such people turn away! For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. Now as Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses, **so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, disapproved concerning the faith; but they will progress no further,** for their folly will be manifest to all, as theirs also was.

4. **Partial Obedience:** Some will say that as long as one is partially obedient then that is sufficient.

A. However, notice what Jesus said to the rich young ruler:

Matthew 19:16-26

1) This individual offered partial obedience to God. Submitting his life in most areas, but declaring independence in others.

The Standard of God

1. We must **know the truth**.

- A. Before we can be saved, we must know the truth. Not what man says is truth, but what God said is truth.**

John 8:31-32 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

- B. The apostle Paul stated the following in Romans 10:12-17:
Romans 10:12-17**

2. We must **love the truth**.

- A. In order to be saved in heaven eternally we must love the truth of God's holy and inspired Word.**

- 1) The Psalmist, David, affirmed his sincere love for the law of God.**

Psalms 119:97 Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day.

Psalms 119:127 Therefore I love Your commandments More than gold, yes, than fine gold!

Psalms 119:165 Great peace have those who love Your law, And nothing causes them to stumble.

- B. We enjoy a much better covenant than did those under the old law of Moses. Therefore we should love the truth!
2 Thessalonians 2:10-12**

3. We must obey the truth.

A. In order for us to be saved, we must obey the truth that we love. Chosen as an apostle to the Gentiles, Paul's mission was to bring about the obedience of faith among the Gentiles for His Name's sake (Romans 1:5).

**1) This is a recurring theme in the Roman epistle.
Romans 6:16-18**

Romans 16:25-27 Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began but now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith — to God, alone wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen.

Conclusion

1. **Who will really be saved?**
 - A. **The truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ is that the promise of eternal salvation is promised to all who:**
 - 1) **Hear** the gospel (Romans 10:17)
 - 2) **Believe** the gospel (Hebrews 11:6)
 - 3) **Confess** their faith in Christ (Matthew 10:32; Acts 8:37)
 - 4) **Repent** of their sins (Acts 17:30; Acts 2:38)
 - 5) **Are baptized** (immersed) in water for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16)
 - 6) **Live faithfully** for Christ until death (Revelation 2:10)
2. **Only those who know, love and obey the truth of God's Word will be able to be saved in order to live eternally in heaven with the Father, our Lord, and all the faithful saints who have done likewise.**

Romans 6:3-4

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

Acts 4:12 Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.

