

SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS FOR ADULTS
LESSON 3

NOT EVERYONE THAT SAITH LORD, LORD

And why call ye me,

Lord, Lord

and do not the things

which I say? —Luke 6:46

Scripture Text: Matthew 7:21-23

We need not worry about the conduct of a man who truly believes in Jesus Christ. If his conduct is not fashioned after the pattern of Christ, then Christ is not his Lord. To reject Christ's teaching and yet call Him Lord is to make a ruinous mistake. This cuts one off from all the good and rich promises that He wants to fulfill in one's life. Christianity is not wholly a matter of conduct. Behind all conduct lies conviction, and behind the Christian life lies firm conviction about all truth that the Bible teaches. That person is a Christian who acknowledges Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and means what he says to such an extent that his whole life conforms to the moral and spiritual

requirements of this conviction. The doctrine of the complete deity of Christ is the basic Christian conviction. Today we study what might be both a warning and a promise.

MEMORY VERSE: *And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?—Luke 6:46*

Do God's Will

Matthew 7:21 Jesus came to earth to save sinners, not to condemn them. Nevertheless, many of them will not be saved—shall not **enter into the kingdom of heaven**. Jesus is not speaking of His opposers. He is speaking of professors of Christianity, those who claim Jesus as their Lord, those who pray to Him and ask for His blessing. Why are these lost? Because talk without obedience to God is worthless. They do not do the will of God. Their will is not surrendered to His will. They plan their own way, follow their own will. In their heart is no desire to obey Him above all. Faith without works is dead (**James 2:17-20**).

The will of God for us is in the Bible, especially the New Testament, for we are living in the Gospel dispensation. We are commanded to do the will of God from the heart. How can weak human beings do the will of God? Read **Romans 12:1-2**. The transforming work done by God makes one able to do His will. Jesus, in saying a corn of wheat must die to bring forth fruit, taught that we must lose our lives, or die, to really live. Regenerate people are given both the desire and the ability to do God's will. The life of Christ within IS the desire and the ability to DO God's will.

No Record of Works

Matthew 7:22 **In that day**—Judgment Day—they will attempt to present evidence to prove their right to enter Heaven. They (1) **prophesied**—preached God's Word, (2) **cast out devils**—were channels of the power of God, (3) did **many wonderful works**—were busy doing good. All was done **in thy name**—professing to be His and to work by His power and authority. This evidence will not pass God's judgment.

Tragic Disappointment

Matthew 7:23 **Then will I profess unto them . . .** Christ's verdict is final. **I never knew you**. He does not mean none of these were ever saved, but that if they were, they had at some time forsaken Him as their Lord, and His knowledge of them is so completely blotted out that it is the same as never having known them. To know Him and be known of Him is salvation. **Depart from me**—tragic disappointment, separated from Him forever. Depart, where to? **Into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels** (**Matthew 25:41**).

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They call their works **wonderful**. Christ calls them **iniquity**. Why? Either because (1) those works did not proceed from Him, were in the first place not of His planning nor done by His working, or (2) since doing them, the people have turned from Jesus and lived after their own ways, thus cancelling their name from His record in the book of life.

To come to the final Judgment and find that what one trusted in is worthless—what unspeakable anguish! Should not this warning of Jesus be heeded now, while there is time to remedy any lack? Should not we teach it and live it, that all be warned in time? "The principle of the Christian life is not using God, but letting God use us."—R.G. LeTourneau

Two Kinds of Works

Both classes of people in our lesson—those who enter Heaven and those turned away—do works, the ones pleasing to God, the others not. What is the difference? One group thought that they were saved by works alone; the other was saved by faith and works—the will of God. Actions of some lives spring from the life of God within the heart. In other lives, actions are put on from the outside in imitation of Christian works. The difference is as that between a flower brought to bloom by the life in the root and a plastic flower stuck into the ground. One cannot have the Christ-life within and not do works according to the will of God. Outward works cannot produce life in the soul. For one's works to please God, trust must be placed in the One living within, not in the works produced outside. Sinners do not do the will of God. To do God's will is necessary for entrance into Heaven. Can there be sinning Christians? See **1 John 3:8-10**.

The Harm in Man-Made Organizations

There are many religious organizations called churches. Some have books and cards recording membership that bear the date and place of their accepting Christ. Most are deceived into believing these practices are a ticket to Heaven. They substitute joining for salvation. At the Judgment many will look back to that outward form of baptism or printed card for proof of their standing with God instead of into their hearts for the witness of the Spirit. There are countless numbers blindly substituting these things for being born again. It takes more than church work; it takes being born of God. Christian living involves crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension into heavenly places.

JUST A THOUGHT

How beautiful are the feet of him that bring glad tidings of good things!