

DON'T BE DECEIVED (Part 2)

“...about Your Salvation”

INTRO: Satan is a pathological liar and the master deceiver. He wants to trick us and cause us to miss God's best for our life. Time and again Scripture warns us to be alert to his lies and not be deceived. Nowhere is this more important than in coming to God through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. He lies to us telling us we don't need God in our lives or we can come to God on our own terms.

TODAY: Don't be deceived about your salvation. The genuineness of our relationship with God must stand the test of examination. Salvation that can't be tested can't be trusted. Paul writes in 2 Cor. 13:5. Paul exhorts us to examine our lives to see if indeed we are “in the faith.” Socrates: “The unexamined life is not worth living.” Yet, few do so, esp. in the most critical issue of all—our relationship with God. Note, “Yourselves” (3xs). Jesus warns us not to deceive ourselves about our salvation (Matt. 7:13-29). Context—nearing end of Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 5-7). Audience was mixed: proud religious leaders and broken people. How get right with God? Matt. 5:20... We can't!

HARD TO ENTER: Matt. 7:13-14 (Luke 13:22-27). False teachers sell lies and deception (7:15-20). Some ways people are deceived about their salvation:

- Matt. 7:21-23 Verbal professions only—They say
- Matt. 7:24-29 Head knowledge only—They hear and know—little fruit, little doing
- Wrong basis for salvation—what they say, hear, know, do (works), baptism, etc. none biblical
- Never really stop and examine their salvation—maybe make as a decision as a child, grew up in Christian home, went to church—never come to grips with real need for Christ—never truly faced their sin problem
- Substitute religious activity for real relationship—attend, give, serve, sing—Jesus never defined salvation as activity, only relationship

- False doctrine or abuse of assurance—Best indicator of salvation is long term obedience based upon love (“follow me”). Swindoll: “Action is the ticket. Only on the rarest occasions does the Lord bless someone for merely listening to Him. Faith is an action. His blessings lie on the other side of obedience.”

TAKE THE TEST (2 Cor. 13:5) —

Resisting the temptation to rationalize, honestly answer these hard questions:

1. Does Christ **really** live in me?
2. Are there specific evidences of change in my life?
3. Am I easier to get along with?
4. Are my attitudes and actions any different now than before I met Christ?
5. If I died today, would Christ welcome me with open arms?

WHAT MUST WE DO?

- Repent of sin (Rom. 3:23; 2 Pet. 3:9)
- Receive Christ by faith (Rom. 6:23; 10:9-10; Eph. 2:8-9)
- Follow Him obediently (Matt. 7:21-27)

RESPONSE? Matt. 7:28-29 He blew their minds! His desire was to change their heart!! Don't be afraid to examine the genuineness of salvation (Psa. 139:23-24). What's worse is waiting too late and discovering you were deceived (2 Cor. 13:5).