



Extended Notes: Sunday, January 19, 2014

Matthew 7:21-24

World religions

- There are 2.1 billion Christians in the world (Pew Research)
- There are 1.6 billion Muslims in the world (Pew Research)
- There are 900 million Hindus in the world (American Live Wire)

Collectively, 83% of the world's population, make a claim to some form of religious faith. That is a lot of religion!

How do we know if we got it right?

1. Keeping up appearances with the _____ .
Argument for heaven based on right words

Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you? Lk. 6:46

2. Keeping up appearances with _____ .
Argument for heaven based on religious activities.

But understand this, that in the last days there will (be people who have) the appearance of godliness, but (deny) its power. 2 Tim. 3:1, 5

3. Keeping up appearances & its final toll.
On that day.

Jesus used the phrase "on that day". What does that mean? There is a day of reckoning that will be coming for all of us to give an account before God of how we have lived our life. For the religious, their day of reckoning will be spent before God trying argue their way into heaven based on the religious things they've said and done.

Where will this get them? This is what Jesus predicts He will tell them....

I never knew you; depart from me, you worker of lawlessness. Mat. 7:23

4. BEING REAL – NO MORE PRETENDING

We have a choice

We have a choice before us. We can choose to stop keeping up appearances and choose to start being real – no more pretending.

And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever. (1 Jn 2:17)

What is the will of God?

Walking in obedience goes deeper than a mere religious profession or religious deed. It's about doing what God says.

Let's go deeper. How do we obey? Is it done out of being afraid of God or by committing ourselves to rigorous self-discipline? No. It's about love. Love for God and love for others. Plain and simple.

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. (Matt. 22:37-39)

Love and obedience go hand in hand with God.....

Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. (Jn. 14:21)

On that day of reckoning there will be one-thing the religious person will be missing – love....

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. (1 Cor. 13:1-3)

God has loved you, now will you love him?

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. (Jn. 3:16)

He has showed His love for you through the cross, now will you love Him?

But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Ro. 5:8)

He has showed His love by providing a simple way for you to experience the forgiveness of your sins in a way that saying and doing the right things could never accomplish.....

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace. (Eph. 1:7)

Will you stop posturing before God and others and experience Him like you never have before?

Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God. (Jn 3:3)

How do we move from saying and doing the right thing as a means of securing our eternal future to obeying God out of love? It's simple. All of us must be born again. We must call upon God to give us a new heart and new mind.....

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. (2 Cor. 5:17)

CONCLUSION

Believe – Repent – Forgiveness – Call upon God

The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. He fulfills the desire of those who fear him; he also hears their cry and saves them. (Ps. 145:18-19)

In your own words, in your own way call, in a spirit of humility call upon God right now. Believe with all your heart. Fully repent. Desperately seek His forgiveness. And He will hear and you will be made new.

Question or comment about today's message? Post it . . .
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