

AN IMPORTANT QUESTION

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August 14, 2022

Luke 13:22-30

1. Jesus was making His way to Jerusalem.

NOTE: Luke 9:51 reads, "When the days were approaching for His ascension, He was determined to (He set His face) to go to Jerusalem."

2. As He traveled, He taught in various cities and villages along the way.

3. At some point an unnamed individual asked, "Lord, are there just a few who are being saved?"

4. The question was an important one, and one we need to consider as well.

5. The Jews of Jesus' day thought that if anyone was going to be saved, they were.

6. They took eternal life for granted because they were, after all, God's chosen people.

7. They were much like many current day evangelicals who have reduced the essentials of the Gospel to some sort of profession of faith.

I. God wants us to know that we are saved.

A. That is why genuine salvation is a work of God. Eph 2:8-10

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

B. Because God wants us to know that we are saved He has provided us with examples of what will be true in our lives if we have been genuinely converted.

C. Note these inspired words from the Apostle Paul.

1. Romans 8:9-10

However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. **But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.**

2. Romans 8:12-14

So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh — 13 for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. 14 **For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.**

3. Romans 8:16-17

The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.

4. 2 Corinthians 13:5-6

Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you — unless indeed you fail the test? 6 But I trust that you will realize that we ourselves do not fail the test.

D. In 2 Peter 1:1-8, Peter wrote about certain realities related to the Christian life, along with certain spiritual qualities that will become evident in the life of a Christian, and he concluded by writing the following. 2 Peter 1:9-11

For he who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins. 10 **Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you;** for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble; 11 for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.

NOTE: The qualities Peter listed were diligence, faith, moral excellence, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love.

NOTE: In verse 8 Peter stated, **“For if these qualities are yours and are increasing,** they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

2 Peter 1:8

E. God inspired John to write the epistle of 1 John so that we could be confident that we are in fact saved. 1 John 5:10-14

The one who believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself; the one who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning His Son. 11 And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. 12 He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. 13 **These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.**

II. Those who are saved by God’s grace will take their salvation seriously.

A. Jesus answered the question by stating, “Strive to enter through the narrow door.”

1. The word strive is the Greek word from which we get our word agony.

2. It denotes wholehearted action; to endeavor with strenuous zeal.

NOTE: In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus advised, “Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. 14 “For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.” Matthew 7:13-14

B. In the Alps there is a marker on the grave of an alpine guide who had died on the mountain where the marker is located. It reads, **“He died climbing.”**

C. Such will be the testimony of those who are genuine followers of the Lord Jesus Christ.

1. Philippians 2:12-13

So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out your salvation with fear and trembling;** 13 for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

2. Hebrews 2:1-4

For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it. 2 For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just penalty, 3 **how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?** After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard, 4 God also testifying with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.

D. Hebrews 11: 6 states, “And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is (a present reality) and that He is a rewarder of those who (continually) seek Him.”

E. Paul wrote to Titus that Jesus “gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, **zealous for good deeds.**”

G. Jesus stated that in the last days lukewarmness would characterize that which was viewed as the church. Revelation 3:14-16

"To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: The Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God, says this: 15 'I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish that you were cold or hot. 16 **'So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth.'**"

III. Those who presume upon God will be disappointed.

A. Jesus emphatically stated, “For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able.

B. Note that many of those who are shut out will say:

1. “Lord, open up to us!”

2. “We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets.”

C. There is a big difference between genuine assurance of salvation and presumption related to salvation.

APPLICATION

1. The bottom line is that there are two classes of people; those who are in Christ, and those who are not in Christ.

2. Those who are inside will come from all parts of the earth and will recline at the table in the Kingdom of God.

3. Those who are outside will be forcibly cast out to a place where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

4. Have you been saved by grace, through faith, and is there biblical evidence that you have been?