

Can You Pass the Test?

According to Jesus there will be many people on judgment day who think they are going to heaven but who will be turned away.

In Matthew 7:21-23 Jesus describes a group of people who think they are going to heaven but are not.

"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles? And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me you who practice lawlessness.'"

In this passage Jesus describes people who will be turned away from heaven. This is what they look like.

- ❑ **There are many of them** (v.22). It isn't just a few people on judgment day who will be turned away but many.
- ❑ **They think they know Christ** (v.21-22). One of the descriptions that the Bible gives for some of those who don't know Christ is that they claim to know Him "They profess to know God but by their deeds they deny Him" Titus 3:16(1 John 2: 3-4).
- ❑ **They have religious experiences in Jesus' name** (v.22-23). These people claim that they have had religious experiences that prove they should be in heaven. What are some of the religious experiences that people hold onto today that they believe validate their faith?
- ❑ **They never knew Christ.** It isn't as if they at one time knew Christ and had salvation but then lost it. These people never had it.
- ❑ **They practice lawlessness** (v.23). They give lip service but they weren't under God's law but chose their own way (lawlessness).

What this means is that today walking around on planet earth are **many people who are confident that they are going to heaven** because they have had religious experiences in Jesus' name but who never knew or followed Jesus Christ **will be sent to hell on judgment day.**

Because a lot of people mistakenly believe they are Christians and going to heaven. The Bible commands us to examine our lives to see if we are truly Christians. "**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?**" 2 Corinthians 13:5

The following verses describe what the Bible says should be true on someone who has a genuine faith in Christ. Use these verses to examine yourself(1 John 2:3-4, James 2:14). Salvation is by grace and not works but how do works fit into a believer's life according to Ephesians 2:8-10?

Do you believe that there is one God? **Even the demons believe that and shudder** (James 2:19). Do you believe that Jesus died and rose from the dead? The demons are convinced of these facts and yet they aren't saved. The demons believe in Jesus Christ and are convinced about His resurrection but they have never turned from their sins and transferred their trust and allegiance from self to Jesus Christ. Jesus told us how to respond to the gospel. "*The time is fulfilled and the Kingdom of God is at hand repent and believe in the gospel*" Mark 1:15.

Repent means to change your mind about sin and decide to go in a different direction. You don't have the strength apart from God to follow through on turning from sin but repentance is deciding that you are willing to turn. This turning goes hand in hand with trusting Christ to forgive your sins through His death and also involves trusting Christ to take control of your life.

If the fruit in your life doesn't reflect Christ, is it possible that you are one of those "Christians" who thinks you are going to heaven but who will be turned away in the end? If so, you can decide to turn from your sin and surrender your life to Christ today.