

LEAVING GOD?

Message 2

6272

INTRO: We have been considering the subject of leaving God. I am not sure that in the Church so many are leaving God, as it is possible that God is sifting non believers, or tares out of the true Church. But the facts are that our secular American society is fast becoming liberal, and so is the recognized Church. This process in the Church has been underway for a long time, and for a long time God has not broken the silence. Our text says, *And of whom have you been afraid, or feared, That you have lied And not remembered Me, Nor taken it to your heart? Is it not because I have held My peace from of old That you do not fear Me?* I understand God to be saying, "Why have you left Me? Is it because I have held My peace for such a long time?" Is it because I have not disciplined you? I have not spanked you for a long time, is that why you do not fear me?

Turn to Psalm 50. When God remains silent for a long time, man becomes proud. Man becomes intimidated by man. God is humanized and man is deified. In the teaching of evolution, man is deified. He determines his own destiny. He is his own god. In the NAM man is deified. You see, when God is humanized, man is deified. Let us begin in verse 16:

16 *But to the wicked God says: "What right have you to declare My statutes, Or take My covenant in your mouth,*

17 *Seeing you hate instruction And cast My words behind you?*

18 *When you saw a thief, you consented with him, And have been a partaker with adulterers.*

19 *You give your mouth to evil, And your tongue frames deceit.*

20 *You sit and speak against your brother; You slander your own mother's son.*

21 *These things you have done, **and I kept silent**; Now listen carefully to the next words: **You thought that I was altogether like you**; But I will rebuke you, And set them in order before your eyes.*

22 *"Now consider this, you who forget God, Lest I tear you in pieces, And there be none to deliver..."*

In the last message I quoted Isaiah 59:14 which says,

14 *Justice is turned back, And righteousness stands afar off; For truth is fallen in the street, And equity cannot enter.*

When we were going home my wife reminded me of the very next verse which says:

15 *So truth fails, And he who departs from evil makes himself a prey. Then the LORD saw it, and it displeased Him That there was no justice.*

In a time like we are, anyone who departs from evil makes himself a prey in the church. He sets him or herself up for trouble. Departing from evil does not sit well in an age like we are today.

Well, in the previous message we looked at the first principle given in our passage on leaving God; intimidation and fear. It is the fear of man that is in view. Now we want to look at the next principles as related to God. Listen once more to our verse: *And of whom have you been afraid, or feared, There is the fear of man. Now here is what happens to man's relationship to God when he departs from God. We find it in the next words: That you have lied And not remembered Me, Nor taken it to your heart?*

2. As related to God

a. Lying to God

What happens when the fear of man sets in? Man lies! Listen carefully now: "And of whom have you been afraid, or feared, That you have lied..." You have lied! May I ask you, how did Israel lie? Clark, in his commentary says that the unfaithfulness of marriage is kept up here. You see, when, in marriage, you play around with other partners, or let me add here, if you entertain porn, you are a liar. A liar to God, a liar to your wife, and to man. Notice verses 5-8 of our chapter which say:

5 *Inflaming yourselves with gods under every green tree, Slaying the children in the valleys, Under the clefts of the rocks?*

6 *Among the smooth stones of the stream Is your portion; They, they, are your lot! Even to them you have poured a drink offering, You have offered a grain offering. Should I receive comfort in these?*

7 *"On a lofty and high mountain You have set your bed; Even there you went up To offer sacrifice.*

8 *Also behind the doors and their posts You have set up your remembrance; For you have uncovered yourself to those other than Me, And have gone up to them; You have enlarged your bed And made a covenant with them; You have loved their bed, Where you saw their nudity.*

When Israel went to other gods, they were liars. They had made a covenant with God, and when they were unfaithful and broke their agreement, their covenant with Him, they were liars. Whenever they went to another god, it was like going to another's bed.

Let me mention here, that in any case when one is unfaithful with another than one's original, living partner, one is a liar. One has made a covenant that says no matter what happens I will be true to you. When one violates that in any case whatsoever, one is both a covenant breaker, and a liar. A covenant breaker is a liar. The couple has said they would be there for each other for better or for worse, and now worse has come, and they marry someone else, and they have become liars.

Have you heard anyone make their vows and now they are married to another partner while the first is alive? They are liars. They are covenant breakers. Covenant or agreement breaking is a sin that condemns to hell. We have seen covenant breaking in

both a church conference and in a church. It is a very serious sin.

Now a major problem among the Jews was worshipping false gods. It is ever the danger among us, even in evangelicalism. Recently we received the paper, *The Herald Of His Coming*. It is the February 2017 issue. They ran a section of A.W.Tozer's book, *The Knowledge Of The Holy*.

My wife went through that article and underlined sections of it. Listen to some of what Tozer said. He said, "What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us." He said, "It is impossible to keep our moral practices sound and our inward attitudes right while our idea of God is erroneous or inadequate. If we would bring back spiritual power to our lives, we must begin to think of God more nearly as He is", end quote.

Think of this that he said, "What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us." Digest that. Ponder it. Is he right? May I ask you, what comes into your mind when you think about God? You have a God. He is either a capital G God or he is a small g god. You might call Him Jehovah God or Jesus Christ, but He may still be neither the true God nor the true Jesus Christ.

Turn to Matthew 7. In Isaiah's day, those who were leaving God were leaving Him for false gods, the gods of the nations around them. They became so intimidated by the world, that they went over to their gods. What is so appealing about the world to man? Now let me show you something about those of whom Jesus spoke in Matthew 7.

We begin in verse 21:

21 Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.

22 Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?'

23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'

Now listen most carefully. Did these people act like Christians? Did they say they were Christians? Did they think they had an accurate idea of who Jesus was? They had a Jesus in their mind, but they did not have an accurate picture of Him in their mind. They did great things in the name of this Jesus they thought was Jesus, but they did not have the right Jesus in their minds. How do I know that? Jesus said so. He said, "You are workers of iniquity. I never knew you."

A.W. Tozer said that what comes into your mind when you think about God is the most important thing about you. It is, because if one doesn't have the right Jesus or God in one's mind, one is lost. We might call Him Jehovah God, or Jesus Christ, or anything else for that matter, but if our conception is wrong, the god we have is a false god; that Jesus we have in our mind is another Jesus, and we are idol worshippers. And then we are liars. And like those of whom Jesus spoke in Matthew 7, there are many professing Christians who think they know Jesus, but they don't. The Jesus they have in their mind, is not the real Jesus.

Intimidation by outside forces is so strong that unless you have a strong personal relationship with the Lord and a grasp on, and love of the truth, though one might even wish to stand against the intimidation, one cannot. The Church is intimidated by the world. That is why we become worldly. The

smaller church is intimidated by the bigger churches. The larger churches are intimidated by the Bible schools. The Bible schools are intimidated by the accrediting associations, and the accrediting associations are intimidated by the world. The subject of psychology is a clear picture of this.

Let me give you an example from my own experience what happens to a Bible school when the teachers becomes afraid. I have seen this in Bible Schools. I have seen this in churches. I have seen this in families. I have seen this in individual Christian lives.

When I was in Bible school, accrediting associations had begun to spring up. If Bible schools are largely responsible for taking the present day church off track, accrediting associations were responsible, at least to a degree for taking Bible Schools off the right path. After the Bible school movement had become successful accrediting associations stepped in.

And now accrediting associations offered this or that benefit if a school would become accredited with them. But to become accredited the school had to also conform its curriculum to the accrediting association. And to conform to that, they had to add this or that extra course, like say psychology classes. But in a Bible school program you can only have ex amount of courses per program. So if you have to add this or that course, which one will you take out? So psychology came in and what went out? Well such doctrinal courses as "Man, Sin and Salvation." And right there is one of the essential courses for Christians to learn!

But you talk about intimidation. If you want to be an accredited school, now you need 'qualified' teachers. It is like our public schools. They need 'qualified' teachers. A qualified teacher for children, according to the Bible, is the Christian

parent. And there is a similar flavour to all qualified teachers in the public system, whether Christian or not. And why is that? They all come through the same mould. And these qualified teachers of a Bible School, at least a number of them, need to have a doctorate degree. And the higher the person is trained, the greater your risk of liberalism creeping in. And then so and so does not have a degree, and he becomes intimidated. I saw godly men intimidated by people with a degree whose Christianity was already largely watered down. And today you could ask almost every Canadian or American Bible School, "Of whom have you been afraid, or whom have you feared?"

Let me tell you of my own experience many years ago. I was brand new on staff in a Bible school. I was the Credit Curriculum Developer of the correspondence school. A course was being offered by a professing Christian who was a teacher in the University of Alberta, in our own capital of Edmonton. The course was on curriculum development. It was directly related to my line of work in the school, and a subject I greatly enjoyed.

I was intimidated in that class. I sat there with those who had been my teachers. I felt like I was wearing clothes about 5 sizes too big for me. And then the class began. We were handed this fat book of photocopied material. After the first class I went home and I was deeply troubled. Day two came and went and I was more troubled than before. I am not quite sure how long I lasted. But I thought, maybe we have been given all this stuff and now he'll say, "Now here's the real thing." But then I realized this 'stuff' we were getting was supposed to be the real stuff.

In that class sat a man for whom I had had great respect. And I thought, how can he stay sitting in this class? But you see, the school was on an academical track that nothing seemed to be able to

stop. And if you wanted to keep your job, you best stick with the program. Older, godly men, feared to raise their voices. This older teacher never raised his voice to my knowledge, and a few years later he died a strange death. Whether it was related or not, I do not know.

The only reason I can see for a man like that to stay in such a class is that he was afraid of losing his job. Many teachers were afraid of losing their jobs because they did not have the right degrees. How many submitted to getting more training in order to keep their jobs I do not know. But I suspected in this case, this teacher sat in the class and did not voice any opposition for fear of losing his job. I have known this fear. To my knowledge I have not bowed to it. That has come at a very big price to myself, my wife, and my family. In looking back, it is also a price I am glad the Lord gave me the courage to pay.

Well, the school was paying for my class. I think it was around day four, when I realized that what we were getting was supposed to be the real thing, I came to a crises. And I made a decision that could have cost me my job. My decision was this: I will never take a course to get a piece of paper if I don't agree with the course. I dropped out of the class. Amazingly, I was never questioned. But not too much later, we made the decision we could not go the direction the school was going. But in that class I learned what this means, "Of whom have you been afraid?"

Look at Isaiah 57:4. Here is how it works. The Lord says, *Whom do you ridicule? Against whom do you make a wide mouth And stick out the tongue?* You see, when the Lord does not crack down for some time on those who oppose God, they begin to do various acts of intimidation. And do you know what happens to the voice that warns of such things in a time of departing? They become squeezed out by the

crowd to the outside edge. They get marginalized. In the church they are called a cult, having no idea what the word cult even means. And most stay in the circle of acceptance and comfort. It takes a strong Christian to stand against a movement away from God.

Israel's battle was a constant battle against false gods entering their worship. We read that over and over in the OT. I ask you, do we have trouble with worshipping false gods? Well, we could talk about a lot of things like sports and music or money etc... but this morning I mean worshipping false gods in the sense of the OT false gods.

I have been using the example of the book *The Shack* to show that we are in a very low, low in the Church. For those who got saved, say in the last 30 years, they will think I am overcorrecting. You see, when something slowly bends out of shape over time, we might overcorrect the bend in order for it to come back to its original straightness. So some Christians of our present day may think I am overstating the case, but I am not. I think mostly we do not see how very bad the situation is in our day and this book, *The Shack*, is a prime example that shows what I am saying to anyone willing to look at it objectively.

In the *Shack*, we have a false god. The *Shack's* small g god, who is called Papa, is a black woman. It is not the color chosen that is the problem, the problem is what that is sought to portray. But portraying God as a woman, any woman, that is what is so very, very wrong. This small g god of the *Shack* says, and I quote: "I am not who you think I am." Do you know what the writer is saying? The subtle message is that the God of the Bible is not the one you think He is. Now here is what the *Shack's* god then says, "I don't need to punish people for sin. Sin is its own punishment devouring you from the inside. It is not my purpose to punish

it; it is my joy to cure it", end quote. This writer, without question, unless he repents is going to hell and taking a lot of people with him. That is a false god. The mixture of truth and error in such quotes is demonically inspired. The writer, beyond all question, is demonized. His father is the father of lies. He pictures the Triune God, but the god he portrays is none other than the devil himself, and the devil that inspired all his lies, is the father of lies. Now anyone who reads the Bible through the lens of the Shack, and he pictures in his mind a Black woman, or Jesus as a clumsy kid, or the Holy Spirit as an Asian woman, such a person is worshipping a false god. There can be no question about that.

Turn to Acts 17. Maybe someone says, "I don't have a god, capital G or otherwise." Maybe you say, "I believe there was a big bang and everything came into existence, from what, I do not know." There is your god. He is that which caused the big bang! Everything that happens must have an adequate cause. So we ask, just what is a god? A God is a supernatural being. There is no question but that the big bang, if it actually happened, is supernatural. And whatever caused that big bang, that is the god of evolution.

There was a time when, because of danger to his life, the Christians of Beria sent Paul away. But Silas and Timothy stayed a while longer. So Paul went to Athens, and from there he called for Silas and Timothy. Listen to Paul as he waits in Athens for his friends to arrive. We begin in verse 16:

16 Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him when he saw that the city was given over to idols.

17 Therefore he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and with the Gentile worshipers, and in the marketplace daily with those who happened to be there.

18 Then certain Epicurean and Stoic philosophers encountered him. And some said, "What does this babbler want to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign gods," because he preached to them Jesus and the resurrection.

19 And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, "May we know what this new doctrine is of which you speak?"

20 "For you are bringing some strange things to our ears. Therefore we want to know what these things mean."

21 For all the Athenians and the foreigners who were there spent their time in nothing else but either to tell or to hear some new thing.

22 ¶ Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, "Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious;

23 "for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you...

So for those who have this god who is unknown, Him we proclaim. Who is He? He is creator God. But that is not all. You see, our title is "Leaving God." You don't overnight worship some false God. May I ask you, is this god you worship, is he the god of unconditional love? Is he the god of unconditional grace? Is he the god of unconditional forgiveness? Is he the god of unconditional eternal security? Is he the god that says if you have become a Christian, no matter how much you sin you will go to heaven? If what I believe is true, those are not biblical teachings, those are points where our picture parts from the real God. If that is correct, we now do not have an accurate picture of the true God in our mind. And here is the question:

how many wrong concepts of God can we have and still be worshipping the one true God? Here is my warning. In such teachings we may well be leaving the one true God, or we may have already left Him.

Let me show you this another way. Let us say you have read the book, *The Shack*, or watched the movie. The person who pictures God the Father as a woman in their mind when they think of God, is an idol worshipper! The person who pictures God the Son, as a clumsy kid, and the person who pictures God the Holy Spirit as a smaller Asian woman, is worshipping a false god! Am I exaggerating? No! Now, if you have read that book, when you think about God, and that picture comes to mind, you are worshipping an idol, and that is what Israel was doing in our passage. And God said Israel had lied. And if we worship this god of the Shack, we have also lied. We have said this is God the Father, or God the Son, or God the Holy Spirit, and it is a demon instead.

May I ask you again: Did you read the book called *The Shack*? Were you shocked? If not, I cannot see how you know the one true God. The picture presented there is so far removed from what is revealed in the Bible, that if it did not shock you and make you want to vomit, there is a huge question whether you have ever known the true God. Do you read versions like the Message, and no flags are raised? You may already be gone. You think you are worshipping the one true God, but it may well be that you aren't. If you worshipped the one true God you would be so shocked reading such writings, you would hardly be able to contain your wrath at what is happening.

A.W. Tozer wrote quite some time ago. Listen to him now: "The low view of God entertained almost universally among Christians is the cause of a hundred lesser evils everywhere among us." Why is the Church where it is? A major factor is that we

have a wrong view of God. We may be saying we worship the God of the Bible, when in fact, we have a false god. Tozer also said, "Always the most revealing thing about the church is her idea of God, just as her most significant message is what she says about Him or leaves unsaid, for her silence is often more eloquent than her speech." He says, "It is my opinion that the Christian conception of God current (that was a long time ago)...is so decadent as to be utterly beneath the dignity of the Most High God and actually to constitute for professed believers something amounting to a moral calamity."

And I keep asking myself, what would he say if he was to awake from the dead and see where we are today? What would he say to our modern books? What would he say to the modern church? What would he say about his own denomination, the Alliance church? But many do not even notice. It all happened slowly enough that we didn't notice what was happening. And we say we are worshipping God, and many are in fact worshipping some demonic image of Him. And so God said to Israel, you have lied.

What is man's problem? He humanizes God and deifies man! Man's conception of God comes down, and as it comes down, his conception of man rises! That is why we have the teaching of evolution. So Tozer quotes this most incredible verse, "Thou thoughtest that I was altogether such an one as thyself" (Ps.50:21). Man thought God was one altogether like man. That is where we are today. That is the Shack, precisely!

We have formed God into what we want Him to be. We created him in our own imaginations. We want Him to love unconditionally. So we mold Him into that form in our theology, and consequently we have a wrong picture of Him. Then we can do what we want, or our children can do what they want, and church members can do what they want, and all is love. We want a

God who extends unconditional grace. We want a God who saves unconditionally. No matter how much we sin, once a son, so the saying goes, always a son.

Now, you see, the thing about a false god is there may be aspects that are correctly taught, but others that are not. The true God does not have that which is true and that which is false. There is nothing false about Him. It is all true. When we have a god in our mind who does not match the God of the Bible, we have a false god or we are on the way to making one. So Tozer said, "If we would bring back spiritual power to our lives, we must begin to think of God more nearly as He is." By the way, let me recommend our messages on sermonaudio.com/mecl on God. These are some of the most important messages I have ever done.

Tozer also said, "Let us beware lest we in our pride accept the erroneous notion that idolatry consists only in kneeling before visible objects of adoration, and that civilized peoples are therefore free from it. The essence of idolatry is the entertainment of thoughts about God that are unworthy of Him."

Now stop right there. Now think with me as I read that once more, and it is worth writing down: "The essence of idolatry is the entertainment of thoughts about God that are unworthy of Him." If he is right, then our religious town and modern Evangelicalism is full of idolatry! Tozer said, "It is my opinion that the Christian conception of God current...is so decadent as to be utterly beneath the dignity of the Most High God and actually to constitute for professed believers something amounting to a moral calamity." He said that a long time ago. We have moved much further away from a true theology than there was when he wrote. If he was right back there, we are in full time idolatry in the Evangelical church today! He said, "The masses of her (the Church's) adherents come to

believe that God is different from what He actually is and that is heresy of the most insidious and deadly kind."

Let me pick up an earlier quote and continue it: "The essence of idolatry is the entertainment of thoughts about God that are unworthy of Him. It begins in the mind and may be present where no overt act of worship has taken place." He then quotes Romans 1:21: "When they knew God they glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful but became vain in the imaginations of their heart", end quote. That is where false gods are born, in the mind and when we have a false god in our minds, we have become idol worshippers.

And I propose to you that when the god we have is one who loves unconditionally, extends unconditional grace, takes you to heaven no matter how much you sin because you have become a Christian, I propose that we are leaving the true God, if we have not then already left Him. It is not the God of the Bible. Such a view of God will affect everything you do, including how you discipline your children or what you let them get away with. By the way, let me mention that modern psychology is not capable of teaching people how to train their children. When I first studied psychology I said, "Oh, my. How they have figured man out." When I wrote my major paper in Bible school I wrote it on the nature of man and I said, "Oh, how little modern psychology knows about man."

Listen to Exodus 20:3-6:

3 *"You shall have no other gods before Me.*

4 *"You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth;*

*5 you shall not bow down to them nor serve them.
For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God,
visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the
children to the third and fourth generations of
those who hate Me,*

*6 but showing mercy to thousands, to those who
love Me and keep My commandments.*

What comes into your mind when you think about God? If any kind of image or picture comes up, you have a false God. God cannot be likened to anything. The book, the Shack, is being instrumental in leading thousands upon thousands of Christians into idolatry.

And when the Evangelical God is turned into this kind of a god, we have become idol worshippers and we are liars to God and about God. We are adulterers and adulteresses. And Isaiah said to Israel, "You have lied..." And then the question comes, of whom have you been afraid and feared that you have lied? You see, the man who wrote the book, the Shack, has now written a book called, "Lies We Believe About God." And what lies do we believe according to him? He believes it is a lie to tell someone you need to be saved. He asked himself this rhetorical question: "Are you suggesting that everyone is saved? That you believe in universal salvation?" He answers: "That is exactly what I am saying!" Warren Smith says he then goes on to say that, and I quote, "every single human being is in Christ" and that, "Christ is in them."

I am told that when Paul Young wrote the Shack, he denied being a universalist, and in that, he lied to man as well as to God. And even then many evangelicals gave him a pat on the back and invited him to speak in conferences, so that he is now not afraid to admit he is a universalists. He is a liar both to God and man.

Now how does Paul Young dare say things like that? It is not only because God remained silent when he wrote his demonic book, *The Shack*; it is also because man remained silent! And because while God remained silent, professing Christians, including leaders applauded his first book. So he dares go further. And where is the outcry? The Christian Church is leaving God. We are lying.

Turn to the book of Galatians. You see, our danger is not only of creating a false god in our minds, but a false Jesus. I am thoroughly convinced that many people believe they are believing in the Jesus of the NT, but the one they have in their mind is not the One of the NT. It is another Jesus. We begin in verse 6 of Galatians 1. Paul says:

6 I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:

7 Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.

It is not sure who is meant when it says they were removed from him. Does it refer to Paul, or Christ, or God? But however that may be, what there is no question about is that they were removed from the Gospel of Christ, to another gospel. They no longer had the true Gospel, and their Jesus was another Jesus. But since it is another gospel, it still masquerades as the Gospel. But Paul is quick to add that this is not a true Gospel. There is only one true Gospel. It is a Gospel that delivers people from sin.

We go on in verse 8:

8 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.

9 As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

In 5:12 Paul says he wishes that these false teachers that troubled them were cut off. The wording Paul uses there is very strong. He wishes that they might be rendered incapable of reproducing.

Another god is a false god; another Jesus is a false Jesus; another gospel is a false gospel.

CONCL: Martin Luther King said, "I have a dream." Yes, I have a burden. Maybe after these messages, the Lord will say, "It is enough." The Martin Luther of 500 years ago said something like this, "You may be preaching the Gospel ever so wonderfully, but if you do not preach on that which the devil is attacking right now, you are not preaching the Gospel at all. Very, very few would be offended if a preaches the Gospel as we understand it today ever so energetically. But if he should weave into it the sin of the present day that the Gospel should save us from, if he mentions the real sins of the present, and he lives like that, it is like asking for crucifixion, and that by the religious leaders, just like in Jesus' day.

Have you ever thought of Paul's words when he said, "All that will live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution." May I ask you, according to Paul's words, are you living godly? Do you dare tell people about the book the Shack? Do you dare tell them about divorce and remarriage? Oh, you will hardly touch a more personally sacred issue than that! Do you dare tell people that those who live in such sins will go to hell! Oh, no, heaven forbid I should say such a thing. They would say, "Judge not that you be not judged!" May I ask you, can you say with Paul, "Follow me as I follow Christ?"

Our former church apologized formally, published it in the churches, for following a man! And if they have a preacher that should not be followed, he should not be a preacher, which in fact he should not be. You see, when preacher and elder lives in wrong, nobody will judge anybody. Why? Because the Bible says so? No! Because of their own failure in life.

Scripture admonishes us to make our calling and election sure. How do you do that? Well, first one must get saved. That calls for repentance and confession of sin. And then one must accept Christ as Lord and Saviour. Saviour because He saves me from my sinful life-style, and Lord, because I live the way He says I should. Maybe someone listening to this message is not sure he or she is going to heaven. Here is your moment. You are lost because you, like the rest of us were, are a wicked sinner. If you do not see yourself as wicked, you are not ready to get saved. And when you do, then repent and confess your sins and live for Christ.