

**Rev. T. Jefferson Rogers Jr.**  
**Matthew 7:21-23**  
**Righteous Living!**

Intro: God will judge false prophets and counterfeit Christians on Judgment day. Both will be sentenced to suffer eternal damnation. Eternal damnation is a rejected and repulsive subject for many. It is rejected by many people because many have been taught alternative theories. One theory that counters the teaching of eternal damnation is universalism. Universalism says that everyone will eventually make it to heaven. Another theory is annihilationism which acknowledges the existence of hell, but its eternal nature is denied.

The teaching of Jesus does not support universalism or annihilationism. Jesus' teaching unflinchingly and boldly declares eternal damnation.

---

---

---

In the preceding verses 15-20, Jesus plainly said watch out for false prophets. False prophets are Christian predators. Verses 21-23 stands in close connection with verses 15-20. Jesus reveals the destiny of false prophets and counterfeit Christians.

## The Dreadful Sentence (Matthew 7:21-23)

---

Jesus said, ***“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he that does the will of my Father which is in heaven”*** (7:21).

I want to suggest two things by the words “Lord, Lord.”

- 1) To say “Lord, Lord” is a profession. Lord, Lord means master, master. Notice, Jesus called Himself Lord. You can call Jesus Lord under false presentation. To call Jesus Lord without friendship and relationship is false presentation. You can acknowledge Jesus without having faith in Him. Simply acknowledging that Jesus is Lord (master) does not guarantee you entrance into the kingdom of heaven. Many people speak the name Jesus out of their mouth, but their hearts are far from Him. Profession absent of belief does not save you. Paul said, ***“Confess with your mouth, Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved”*** (Romans 10:9). Entrance into God's heaven involves mouth and heart.
- 2) To say, “Lord, Lord,” is to call on the Lord in prayer. The Pharisees were excessively devoted to prayer, and they led people to believe that every prayerful man would be saved. Praying without the intention of hearing God and doing God's will is futile. The primary purpose of prayer is not to change God or circumstances. The primary purpose of prayer is to change the person praying. Prayer should change you from self-will to God's will.

Jesus added, ***“but he that does the will of my Father which is in heaven.”*** This is not to suggest that we are saved by works. Paul said, ***“We are saved by grace through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast”*** (Ephesians 2:8-9). Faith in Christ produces works.

You don't work to be saved. You work because you are saved.

Verse 22 *Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?*

Population in Judgment: Many will say to me in that day—The number of false prophets and counterfeit Christians is large.

Point of Judgment: Jesus said in “that day.” “That day” refers to judgment day. There will be a day of final judgment. The Lord will judge the living and the dead.

Ecclesiastes 12:14 says, *“For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.”*

Malachi 4:1 says, *“Surely the day is coming; it will burn like a furnace. All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble, and the day that is coming will set them on fire, says the LORD Almighty. Not a root or branch will be left to them.”*

John the Baptist spoke of the need to *“flee from the coming wrath”* (Luke 3:7).

Jesus said in John 5:28-29, *“Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.”*

Paul wrote to the unrepentant: *“Because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed. God will repay each person according to what they have done”* (Romans 2:5-6).

Profession at Judgment: False prophets and counterfeit Christians will profess their works as reason to enter into heaven. Doing good deeds, performing miracles, and preaching God's Word do not guarantee you entrance into heaven. Paul said in Ephesians 2:9 *“Not of works, lest any man should boast.”*

- A. Regarding Works: Mighty works is no proof of one's acceptance with God. Judas was an apostle and miracle-worker. Judas preached and performed miracles according to Matthew 10:1-4. Balaam prophesied according to Numbers 24. However, both Judas and Balaam lacked the condition of the heart that allies one with God. There can be mighty works without having a relationship with Jesus.
  - 1. Preaching and teaching in His Name: the word prophesied does not refer to telling the future, but to preaching and teaching in the name of God and Jesus Christ.  
J.A. Macdonald said, “The truth, though ministered by ungodly men, may be made the power of God to the salvation of the hearer. The minister of saving truth may himself become a castaway” (Pulpit Commentary).

Example: 1 Corinthians 9:27 *But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.* The word “castaway”

2. Cast out devils (demons) by His Name:

3. Many wonderful works by His Name:

The words “in” and “by” does not imply vital connection to Jesus. The revelation of Christ is the instrument by which false prophets proclaim Divine truths, cast out demons, and work miracles. However, Christ has no real connection with false prophets and counterfeit Christians.

B. Regarding Reward: their perceived reward is entrance into heaven. “Grace may bring a man to heaven without miracles, but miracles will never bring a man to heaven without grace” (Henry).

#### Pronouncement of Jesus in Judgment:

Verse 23 And then will I profess to them, I never knew you: depart from me, you that work iniquity.

A. Dreadful Saying: Jesus will say to false prophets and counterfeit Christians: I never knew you (7:23a). In other words, I never had a personal relationship with you. I never approved or recognized you.

---

---

B. Dreadful Separation: Then the Lord will say, “Depart from me, you that work iniquity.” The word translated iniquity is *anomia* means “law breaker.”

---

---