

(Matt. 7:21-23) - These verses show that the most sincere professions and lives of religious experience and exercise, even when they come in the name of Christ, can neither absolve us from the guilt of sin nor make us righteous in God's sight. Consider what these lost religionists presented as their ground of salvation, and as the works which they truly believed made them righteous enough to gain eternal glory and fellowship with God. It was not Christ's righteousness imputed to them. It was what they believed God had enabled them to do.

"NOT EVERY ONE THAT SAITH UNTO ME, LORD, LORD, SHALL ENTER INTO THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN" - We know that religious lip-service alone will not evidence true salvation. Simply saying or repeating certain words will do us no good. As far as saying, "LORD, LORD," some false preachers beg their hearers, "make Jesus Lord of your life." They say, "You have made him your savior; now make him your lord." This too is false Christianity. We do not MAKE Jesus to be anything. He is what He is by virtue of the glory of His Person as God in sinless human flesh and in the power of His finished and successful work of redemption for His people to work out righteousness for them. These false religionists DID call Him, "LORD, LORD," but they did not truly see and bow to Him as Lord. This is evidenced by their works in which they trusted. As a result, they could not "enter into the Kingdom of Heaven." The true Lord Jesus Christ is the door into the kingdom of heaven. His righteousness imputed is the only meritorious work that insures His people of their entrance into the kingdom and all eternal blessings and benefits of salvation.

Who will enter the Kingdom of Heaven? **"BUT HE THAT DOETH THE WILL OF MY FATHER WHICH IS IN HEAVEN"** - This means to believe on His Son Whom He has sent. It is to trust Christ for all salvation and righteousness before God. It is to follow Christ in His word and walk by faith in Him seeking to glorify Him in our lives. It is living and abiding in the grace of God based solely upon the righteousness of Christ freely imputed to us and received in our hearts by God-given faith. These professing Christians did not trust Christ as evidenced by the testimony of Christ Who is the righteous Judge of all (John 5:22-27). As moral and sincere as these false professors may or may not have been, one thing is sure. None of their works could measure up to the standard of perfect righteousness required by God (Acts 17:31).

"MANY WILL SAY TO ME IN THAT DAY" - "In that day" refers to the day of final judgment when all shall be summoned to appear before the Lord (2 Cor. 5:10; Rev. 20:11-15; John 5:28-29; Heb. 9:27). This day is fixed by God and will be a day of rejoicing for the Lord's people but a day of terror for those who stand before Him without Christ. **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?"** - None of these acts are sinful in and of themselves. But when a sinner stands before God and pleads them as his righteousness so as to gain salvation and entrance into heaven, they are works of iniquity, evil deeds, and fruit unto death. **"AND THEN WILL I PROFESS UNTO THEM, I NEVER KNEW YOU: DEPART FROM ME, YE THAT WORK INIQUITY"** - The Lord knew who they were. He knew their hearts. But He did not know them in His sovereign, gracious, electing, redeeming love as He loves His chosen people unto salvation (1 John 4:10). So, He cast them out unto eternal damnation because they had no righteousness to plead before Him. All they had were works of iniquity that do not measure up to the standard of God's righteousness found in the glorious Person and finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ as the Surety, Substitute, and Redeemer of His people.

(Matt. 7:24-25) - **"THEREFORE WHOSOEVER HEARETH THESE SAYINGS OF MINE, AND DOETH THEM"** - This is the same as what the Lord stated in 7:21 - **"But he that doeth the will of My Father which is in heaven."** He is speaking of the will of God for His chosen people whom

God says He will save by His grace and bring them to Christ for salvation and righteousness. This is also God's revealed will by way of commandment in the Gospel which commands sinners to believe in and follow the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation. This is the summation of His "sayings." The sayings of Christ in the realm of the revealed will and commandments of God are to believe in Him and submit to His righteousness as the only ground of salvation and the only power and source of spiritual life. None of the sayings of Christ or commandments of God to sinners direct us to seek salvation or to attain righteousness by our works. "Doeth them" (His sayings) means to believe and act upon what He has said and commanded - BELIEVE ON THE LORD JESUS CHRIST AND SUBMIT TO HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS AS OUR ONLY MERIT BEFORE GOD.

"I WILL LIKEN HIM UNTO A WISE MAN, WHICH BUILT HIS HOUSE UPON A ROCK" - Christ compares believers (sinners saved by grace) to "a wise man," because those who believe have been made by God "wise unto salvation" (2 Tim. 3:14-17; 1 Cor. 1:18-25). Christ is the wisdom and power of God to all who have been called by the Holy Spirit into the kingdom. True believers are standing upon the "ROCK" which is Christ Jesus. HE is the solid rock of salvation. As the hymn states, "On Christ, the solid Rock I stand; all other ground is sinking sand."

"AND THE RAIN DESCENDED, AND THE FLOODS CAME, AND THE WINDS BLEW, AND BEAT UPON THAT HOUSE; AND IT FELL NOT: FOR IT WAS FOUNDED UPON A ROCK" - As we stand in Christ and are found in Him having been washed clean from our sins by His blood and having been justified before God based on His righteousness imputed, we have the assurance of salvation and eternal glory, and we cannot fall. Christ took upon Himself (as our Surety, Substitute, and Redeemer) the whole measure of God's wrath against us. He drank the cup of damnation dry. God will not charge us with sin, and we cannot be condemned for sin (Rom. 8:31-34).

(Matt. 7:26-27) - Those who *"HEARETH THESE SAYINGS"* and *"DOETH THEM NOT"* describes unbelievers who continue and die in their unbelief. They are *"FOOLISH"* because only a fool would insist on traveling the broad road that leads to destruction and building a house *"UPON THE SAND."* Without Christ, without His righteousness to justify us before, we have no foundation (no ground) upon which to be justified and glorified. So, when God's justice declares such unbelievers to be guilty and condemned, the storm of God's wrath will rain down upon them. Their house (no matter how beautiful it appears to men) will fall, *"AND GREAT WAS THE FALL OF IT."* There is no hope of salvation, of forgiveness, of justification, of eternal life and glory apart from Christ, the solid Rock of salvation.

(Matt. 7:28-29) - *"AND IT CAME TO PASS, WHEN JESUS HAD ENDED THESE SAYINGS"* - This marks the end of Christ's sermon on the mount. After this, He continued on with His public ministry healing people and preaching the Gospel of salvation by God's grace in and by Him. Notice, *"THE PEOPLE WERE ASTONISHED AT HIS DOCTRINE."* They were not amazed by His appearance or style (cf. Isa. 53:1-3). They were amazed by His teaching - *"FOR HE TAUGHT THEM AS ONE HAVING AUTHORITY, AND NOT AS THE SCRIBES."* It was apparent to them that Christ's Word was not a mere opinion or human idea. His Word was (and is) the sovereign, powerful, inerrant Word of God. They perceived a marked difference between Christ's teaching and that of the scribes and Pharisees. Christ did not propose questions about the law to be debated or the traditions of men. He declared solid truth, sound doctrine used by God the Holy Spirit to bring God's people to faith in Christ and repentance of dead works and idolatry.