

Not All Dogs Go to Heaven

Matthew 7:21-23

You might not think it, but our world is very heavenly minded. That is a strange statement considering just how wretched and wicked our world is, but in a recent CNN poll, it was discovered that 81% of the people asked believed in a literal heaven where people lived with God after death. 81%! 61% of those polled said that they believed they would go to Heaven immediately when they died. Another 88% believed that they would see departed family and friends when they arrived in Heaven.

I find these numbers astonishing in light of the wickedness that fills our society, don't you? Of course, there is another side to this story. Of all those polled, 6% believed Heaven could be reached by doing good works. Another 57% believed that Heaven was available to all who place their faith in God and did good works and 34% believed that Heaven was for those who had faith in God alone. Now, here is where a problem begins to be seen. A full 63% of those who responded believed they were going to Heaven, but they cited the wrong reason for getting there. The other 34%, who believed that Heaven came to those who placed their faith in God, may be just as wrong as those who believe salvation comes as a result of works.

I want you to know this morning that not everyone goes to Heaven when they die! I know we want to believe they do, but the fact of the matter is, not everyone who thinks they are going to Heaven really is. In what is, without question, the most important area of any person's life, most people, are sincerely wrong concerning what they believe about salvation.

As Jesus drew near to the end of the Sermon on the Mount, He takes the time to remind men of the seriousness of their salvation. He wanted all who heard Him to be sure that they were genuinely converted. That is my desire for each of you this morning. I would like for us to spend a few minutes with these words of Jesus and notice some thoughts that come from this passage.

It is my prayer that you will allow the Spirit of God to speak to your hearts today. It may be that there are some here this morning who have never been truly saved. Perhaps this is the day when you will meet Jesus as your Savior. Maybe there are those who think they are saved, but in truth, you're not. I am praying that God will speak to your heart today! Perhaps there are those who know you have never been converted. There is no better time than right now to get that taken care of. Let's join Jesus as He teaches us the truth that "*Not All Dogs Go To Heaven.*"

Mat 7:21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

Mat 7:22 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?

Mat 7:23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

I. A Startling Communication

Mat 7:21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven;

Jesus makes one of the most startling statements in all the Bible. He says that not everyone who claims Him as Lord will be saved! He is telling us that there will be some people who will think they are saved, but who, in fact, are still lost and headed to Hell!

Jesus makes it clear that not all who profess Him possess Him! A mere profession of Jesus as Savior is not enough to save! A person may believe in the doctrines of the faith. They may be sincere and good. However, merely saying you know Jesus is not enough to save your soul. Belonging to the church, being a good person, doing religious things, etc, are all good, but none of them can save the soul! Salvation come only through a new birth.

Joh 3:3 Jesus answered and said unto him, **Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.**

Joh 3:4 Nicodemus saith unto him, **How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?**

Joh 3:5 Jesus answered, **Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.**

Joh 3:6 **That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.**

Joh 3:7 **Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.**

I think it is clear that Jesus is telling us that there will be some who will think they are saved and in reality they are deceived. Why would I believe this? Because the Bible has much to say about this matter.

- Jesus declared in

Mat 22:14 **For many are called, but few are chosen.**

- Paul also knew that there would be some in the church who would be fooled by their profession.

2Co 13:5 **Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?**

- Simon Peter also mentioned this phenomenon,

2Pe 1:10 **Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:**

2Pe 1:11 **For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.**

Why is this such a major concern?

Because without Jesus, there is no hope for salvation. There is hope for nothing but Hell fire! Sadly, there are too many in our day who base their "salvation experience" on what their mother or daddy told them happened. Too many are trusting a time when they had a strange experience. What we need to get firmly nailed down this morning is that there are many people who are trusting in some "fuzzy"

experience to get them to Heaven. Friend, you had better be sure where your faith is today! Why? Your eternity depends on what you trust in! Remember, not all dogs go to Heaven! We've seen the statement, now let's take a look at a

II. A Simple Condition

Mat 7:21 ...but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

Here, Jesus clears up the matter of what brings salvation to a life. He says that people are saved by "doing the will of His Father."

Does this mean that people are saved by works? Of course not!

Eph 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

Eph 2:9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

If we are going to understand this verse, we are going to have to find out what the will of the Father is.

According to **John 6:40**, this is the will of God,

Joh 6:39 And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.

Joh 6:40 And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

So, the Bible makes it clear that salvation comes to those who see the Son and believe in Him. The bottom line?

Salvation is by pure faith in the finished work of Jesus on the cross. If you can come to the place where you are trusting nothing but the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ to save you from your sins, that is biblical salvation. It is stated as simply as possible in Romans 10:9-10.

Rom 10:9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

Rom 10:10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Last week we were privileged to listen to a sermon based on the story of the woman at the well. God has made salvation so easy to receive that He is able to invite anyone who thirsts to come to Him for salvation.

Joh 4:10 Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.

Joh 7:37 In the last day, that great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.

Joh 7:38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

Rev 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

Salvation is simple. In the book of Acts the Phillipian jailer asked:

Act 16:30 ... Sirs, what must I do to be saved?

Act 16:31 And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

The Bible goes on to tell us

Act 16:32 And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house.

Act 16:33 And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed *their* stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway.

Act 16:34 And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house.

Where is your faith this morning? It had better be in Jesus because not all dogs go to heaven!

III. A Stunned Complaint

Mat 7:22 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?

When these people hear the requirement for salvation, they begin to recount all the things they have done in life. They had done some pretty impressive stuff! They had preached the Word of God! They had cast out devils! They had done many wonderful works! And, they had done it all in the Name of Jesus!

You see, they were sincere! They were busy! They were doing good stuff in a good Name. They were making a difference. They were so busy working for the Lord that they never took the time to get to know Him personally!

These people appealed to their works to save them. They even call Him Lord, but they do not know Him! If this verse teaches us anything at all, it teaches us that salvation cannot be produced by works! My friends, you can do it all! You can work and give and visit and preach and teach and go to church and on and on and on, but the truth still remains. Salvation is by *“faith through grace and that not of yourselves. Not of works lest any man should boast.”*

Look carefully at our text. What do you see wrong with these people’s resume?

Notice that their whole claim to Heaven rests in what “they” have done! The focus is on them and not on the Lord. May I just remind you this morning, your salvation will never be about you? It will never be about what you have accomplished or what you may have done. Salvation is all about Jesus and

what He did when He went to the cross and took the sins of the world on Himself at Calvary. The Bible says that

2Co 5:21 ..he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

Salvation is about Jesus! Salvation is about the One Who suffered, bled and died to accomplish what a million lifetimes of religious works can never do.

Heb 9:11 But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building;

Heb 9:12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption *for us*.

Heb 9:13 For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh:

Heb 9:14 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Because of all this, I am glad that I can tell you this morning, “*It is done, and there is nothing for you to do, but accept Jesus and His plan for your salvation!*” If you have received Him and His plan, then praise the Lord. If not, then you need to realize that not all dogs go to Heaven!

One day, a king died. His servants spread the unbelievable news all over the palace. He had died in his bed of natural causes.

“Where has he gone?”, asked one of the king's wisest counselors

“Why, to Heaven of course!”, answered all the others.

“No”, said the other gravely, “I served this king for many years and traveled with him to many places. He loved to travel and would go over the details of each journey. Every element was planned and anticipated. But I have never heard him say a word about traveling to Heaven. It is a journey for which I saw him make no preparation. I am quite sure he did not go to Heaven.”

What about you? Have you made the right preparations?

Look back at our text this morning and I would like you to see:

IV. A Shocking Confession

Mat 7:23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you:

As those people stood before the Lord, surely they were shocked at what they had already heard. Now they are about to hear something that will forever seal their destiny. He tells them, “*I never knew you.*” They had claimed to be working in His name. They had claimed that they knew Him. They had professed a relationship, but Jesus tells the truth. He tells them that at no time in their lives had He ever known them!

Of course, Jesus is God! He knows everything. He knew who they were and He knew their hearts. What He means here is that He had never known them in a personal relationship. These people had never been saved!

There are those who feel that this passage is speaking to backsliders. Some feel that these people were once saved and now, for whatever reason, they are lost again. But Jesus says that He "never" knew them. Jesus cannot lie. If He ever knew them He would not say that He never knew them! These aren't backsliders! These people are just plain lost in their sins!

By the way, I am convinced that many who appear to be "backsliders" in the church are really people who were never been saved in the first place. Now I can't tell for certain, I don't know your heart, but 1 John 2:19 tells us:

1Jn 2:19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would *no doubt* have continued with us: but *they went out*, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.

I mean, walks like a duck, squawks like a duck, looks like a duck; just might be a.....duck.

The whole point of this verse is this,

2Ti 2:19 Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

If Jesus ever knew you, He still does today. If not, then you might be in this crowd that gathers on that day and finds they have no future in Heaven. Not all dogs go to Heaven!

Look now at the last part of verse 23 from our text and see:

V. A Sudden Condemnation

Mat 7:23 ... depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

These lost ones are ordered to leave the presence of the Lord! There is only one place in the universe where men can be free from the manifest presence of God and that is in the fires of Hell.

2Th 1:8 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

2Th 1:9 Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

Rev 14:10 tells us that **The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:**

Rev 14:11 And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they

have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.

I think the saddest words in all the Bible will be these words recorded here, "*I never knew you, depart from me.*" These are people who expected to hear the Lord welcoming them into Heaven. They were sincere. They thought they were saved. They knew all the catch words and the right things to say. They knew "Gospel speak". Why then will these people hear these words? Because they are basing their hope of salvation on their own works and goodness. Because they have failed to place their faith in the finished work of Jesus on the cross. They will go to Hell because they chose their way over God's way. I wonder, what will Jesus say to you? Remember, not all dogs go to Heaven!

So, in closing, 81% of Americans believe in the existence of a real literal Heaven. Almost that many expect to go there immediately when they die. Will they? Only if they have trusted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. Unless they come to God through Jesus Christ, they will never be saved.

Joh 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, **I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.**

This morning, I want you to know that I do not have the ear of 81% of Americans. However, I have had your ear this morning. Where do you stand with the Lord Jesus? Do you think you are saved? Do you hope that you will go to Heaven when you die? What are you basing that hope on this morning? If there is the slightest doubt in your heart that you are saved, you need to come and get that things settled right now. Some of you are lost. You need to get out of your seat and make your way to Jesus right now. He is calling will you come?

I remind you again, not all dogs go to Heaven! Will you?