

FINDING THE WAY OF SALVATION

Text: Mt 7:7-8, LK13:24

INTRODUCTION: Simon Peter in 2 Pet. 3:9 tells us that God does not desire that any should perish but that all should repent. In ancient times the prophet Ezekiel said clearly that God does not desire that anyone experience spiritual death.

Ezek 33:11, “As I live,” says the Lord GOD, “I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?”

Why are there few that find the Way that leads to eternal life?

- I. MANY ARE NOT SEEKING SALVATION BECAUSE THEY DO NOT REALIZE THE SERIOUSNESS OF SIN.
Rom. 6:23; Gen. 2:17; Ezek. 18:20; James 1:15.
- II. MANY ARE SEEKING THEIR OWN PLEASURE TO THE TOTAL NEGLECT OF THINGS SPIRITUAL.

Lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God, 2 Tim. 3:4

Heb. 2:3, How shall we escape...

- III. MANY DO NOT REALIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF GOD’S INSTRUCTIONS.
 - A. The heathens: Rom 1:21-24, Tho they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thots, & their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man--and birds and four-footed animals & creeping things. Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness...
 - B. Many worship God in unacceptable ways.

1. Cain believed in God & worshipped God, but his worship was not offered in a way acceptable to God, Gen. 4:6-7.

Jude 8, 11, Likewise also these dreamers defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak evil of dignitaries... Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit, and perished in the rebellion of Korah.

2. The citizens of Athens worshipped God ignorantly. Paul said they needed to repent in preparation for the judgment, Acts 17:22-31.

3. What Jesus quoted from Isaiah, is still true of many, even in our own time: "This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men. (Mark 7:6-7)

III. WE CANNOT FIND SALVATION WHERE GOD DID NOT PUT IT.

- A. In a "faith" that discounts obedience. James 2:20, 26
Matt. 7:21-23; Heb. 5:9; Gal. 5:6.

Read Heb. 11:7,-8, 17, 24-29

John 12:42-43, Even among the rulers many believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.

- B. In humanly devised churches and religious organizations.
Matt. 15:13; Psalm 127:1.
- C. In being good, clean, & morally upright. By simply being "sincere & honest." No one will be saved by being "good

enough,” and no one will remain lost because he is “not good enough to be saved.” Any sinner can be saved by being obedient to God’s plan of salvation. No sinner has any real hope of being saved otherwise. Uzza “meant well” when he touched the ark, 1 Chron. 13:9. Simon Peter “meant well” when he rebuked Jesus, Matt. 16:22. Paul “meant well” when he persecuted the church; Prov. 14:12’ 2 Tim. 2:5

D.
IV. SALVATION MUST BE FOUND WHERE GOD PUT IT –
IN JESUS CHRIST.

READ EPHESIANS 1:3-10

Gal. 3:26-27;

READ ROMANS 6:3-5, 17-18

Cox Springs, TX, July 16, 1967
White Park, LA, October 18, 1968
Jonestown, TX, February 8, 1970
Springhill, LA, July 15, 1973
KBSF Radio, Springhill, LA, September 22, 1974
La Porte, TX, January 22, 1978
Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, September 21, 2003