

HOW CAN YOU ESCAPE THE CONDEMNATION OF HELL?

Text: Matthew 23:33

INTRO: The question Jesus asked the Pharisees in our context is a rhetorical question, & its implied answer is that there was no way for them to escape hell in the present spiritual condition. In this lesson we will examine Jesus' question in its immediate context, then make application to a few additional situations.

- I. IF YOUR SERVICE TO GOD IS A SHAM?
 - A. Those to whom Jesus spoke were religious when others were looking. Their religion was for public show, vs. 3, 5, 25, 28.
 - B. They were lifted up with pride, sought for themselves the chief seats & places of honor, showy titles, etc, vs. 6-7.
 - C. They were driven by greed, personal gain, vs. 14.
 - D. They were dishonest to the core, vs. 16-19.
 - E. They majored in minors, vs. 23-24.
 - F. They honored the glorious dead but would have killed them if they had been alive in their time, vs. 29-32, 34, 37.
 - G. Summary, vs. 13, 33.
- II. IF YOU PRACTICE THE WORKS OF THE FLESH?

Gal 5:18-21, Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, & the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Rev 21:8, But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

BUT THERE IS HOPE!

1 Cor 6:9-11, Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

III. IF YOUR NAME IS NOT IN THE BOOK OF LIFE?

Rev 20:15, And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

Rev 21:27, [Of heaven] But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

A. Believe, John 8:24

B. Repent, Acts 2:38

C. Be baptized into Christ, MK 16:15-16; Acts 2:41, 47
Heb 12:23-24, You have come to... the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect.

Luke 10:20, Do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven."

CONCLUSION: Is your name written in heaven in the Lamb's Book of Life? If not, it can be.

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