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# WHO WILL ENTER THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN?

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“Not everyone who says to Me, “Lord, Lord,” shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, “Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?” And then I will declare to them, “I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!”” (Matthew 7:21-23)

When asked if they believe in God most people will answer in the affirmative. All religions claim to believe in God and all Christian denominations say that they are believers. Yet, is it enough to just say that you believe in God to enter the kingdom of heaven, or does God expect something of us to enter into His kingdom?

Doubtless it is good to say that we are believers; it is good to go to church, pray, and read the Word. However, is it enough for entrance into God's kingdom? It seems obvious that many believers are deceived because they don't understand that it is not enough to just attend church, to pray and

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read the Bible, although these are all good characteristics for every believer.

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1. NOT EVERY MAN WHO CONFESSES THAT HE IS A BELIEVER AND GOES TO CHURCH SHALL ENTER THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

When we reflect on Christ's words we will not find anywhere that it talks about church membership, confession of faith, ecumenical prayers, interreligious dialogues, or contracts with the government as a requirement for entering the kingdom of God.

I actually believe that many pastors, theologians, today's prominent scientists and philosophers will be surprised on that day and say exactly what Jesus said that many will say on that day, "Lord, Lord, have we not

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prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name? And then I will declare to them, "I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!" (Matthew 7:21-23)

Herein lies the problem. Believers think that if they work for Jesus, if they confess Him or mention His name, that they will secure their entrance into His kingdom. But the fact is that we can work for Jesus, we can do even great things for Him, but if we do not live according to His word, if we live according to our own discretion and will, Jesus can restrain us from entering God's kingdom.

Unfortunately, there is very little difference between so-called Christians and the world; for some there is no difference at all. What's more, many people in the world have higher standards of behavior than those who confess faith.

More and more Christians look on holiness and kingdom standards with mockery. Holiness and righteousness have been replaced by moderation and tolerance. God's truth has become relative and is replaced by acceptance of differences. We are witnesses to how Christians say that there is no longer a difference between new believers and spirit-filled believers; meetings and seminars are circling the globe promoting the idea that possibly Christians and Muslims have the same God.

Not long ago a Catholic priest in Sweden suggested that it would be good for us to call our God Allah so that the Muslims wouldn't feel offended and so we could be more

approachable. What's more, some evangelical Christians even said that the Christian and Muslim god are the same, while some Catholic theologians call Muslims their brothers. Let people claim what they will, those who do not fulfill Christ's commands will not enter the kingdom of Heaven; salvation is only possible through Jesus Christ!

Jesus will call many "workers of iniquity" who worked for Him because of their iniquity. It is mad to think that it is possible to work iniquity in the name of grace and love, when those works are not completely sincere and loyal to God's Word, and still enter the kingdom of heaven just because we confess faith or attend church on Sunday.

If we work iniquity, live in sin, and are disobedient to God's Word, our membership in a local church will not save us on that day because in Christ's eyes we will be workers of iniquity. Those who Christ called workers of iniquity were believers who tried to work in His name. "Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?" (Matthew 7:22)

Christ is not interested in our confession of faith or our church attendance, neither is He interested in our beliefs as much as He is concerned that we do His will! Without obedience to His will and His Word no one will be able to enter the kingdom of heaven. Obedience to His voice is better than even one sacrifice; obedience to His Word is the only evidence of our surrender and love to God. "He who has My commandments and keeps

them, it is he who loves me. If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. He who does not love Me does not keep My words."  
(John 14:21a, 23-24a)

Today's sermons have become emotional, intellectual, balanced, and inspired of the devil; a lying gospel based on soulless love, acceptance of differences, tolerance and understanding.

The results of this are more tolerance to sin and more disobedience in the name of "understanding of differences". Our standards become unrecognizable and believers have lost their savor. There is no difference between their churches and other religions. Rather than preaching absolute obedience to the only Savior and Lord Jesus Christ they preach tolerance and understanding. There is no longer a requirement for heart change as much as there is a requirement for church membership.

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It's not strange that many will be surprised on the day of the Son of God's coming when they will find themselves in the place prepared for all those who were not obedient and who did not fulfill God's Word. Many believers, preachers, theologians and pastors will ask why they are found in the place where the "sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." (Matthew 8:12) Many will leave in failure because they relied on their church attendance and confession of faith as well as those things they did in God's name.

2. THOSE BELIEVERS WHO FULFILL THE WORDS OF CHRIST ARE THE ONLY ONES WHO CAN ENTER GOD'S KINGDOM, BECAUSE LISTENING TO THE WORD, BEING A CHURCH MEMBER AND "CONFESSION OF FAITH" ARE NOT ENOUGH.

"Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a

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wise man who built his house on the rock..." (Matthew 7:24)

"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves." (James 1:22)

The church today has become a big theater to which people go once a week to have fun and afterward drink coffee with friends. Naturally, they comment on the preacher and his sermon, just like local gossip magazines. Rather than praying, reading, fulfilling the Word of God and actively becoming involved in Christ's local body, Christians hold church like a social club where every one finds himself a friend to fellowship with. For many the church serves only to fill their own ego and selfish desires. Today's church, it seems, is made up of a group of individuals who do their own will, and less of the Father's. With this attitude we cannot enter the kingdom of God, regardless how tidy our life is.

Rather than listening to God's Word, we contradict it and live like the world. We enjoy listening to "good sermons", yet in the end we do nothing with them.

I am afraid that many will be surprised when one day they stand before Jesus. The church will not be able to save them in that day, the state won't be able to stand by them; we will all be judged on the foundation of our works, on the foundation of what we did with His Word. Were we obedient or disobedient, sheep or goats? Did we build our lives on a rock and become wise or did we fail to fulfill God's Word and become ignorant?

Let's not be deceived! Church membership and reading the Bible is not enough to enter the kingdom of heaven, rather fulfilling what we've read and heard about Jesus. Finally, are we praying that His will be done? Are we living according to what He wants of us or do we need Him to bless our selfish motives and desires?

There is a big difference between listening and doing. The Apostle Paul told the Romans that "for not the hearers of the law [are] just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified." (Romans 2:13) Which commands can we seemingly break because of the New Testament and still enter the kingdom of heaven? Can we commit adultery, lie, steal, envy and enter the kingdom of heaven?

Jesus did not say that it is enough to raise our hand in the air, rather to cut it off if need be. He didn't emphasize a healthy life and recreation as much as that we must lose our life for Him and those who live in darkness. Jesus didn't seek for pocket change rather for our possessions; He didn't come looking for certain areas of our life, but our whole life. He doesn't just want us to become church members but to become a part of His body that fulfills His will on earth.

He didn't seek for people to accept us; He actually said that we would be persecuted if we persevere in righteousness! He left us with only one goal on earth – to know Him better and evangelize the world. What are we doing today, other than being politically correct? We hold our own church services and times of fellowship and want Jesus bless us and everyone on the earth to love us.

Today's modern believers do not live for Jesus; rather they want Jesus to live for them. This is why many will be disappointed when they are found in hell with many other believers, pastors, and respectable world theologians who only hear but never fulfilled Christ's Word. On that day many will be surprised because they will think that they are be saved by grace regardless of their worldly and perverse lives. Paul was very clear when he said, "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption...Now the works of the flesh

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are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and 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.” (Galatians 6:7-8, 5:19-21)

What are those things listed above that are considered permissible without consequences to our soul? The problem is that we have given place to humanism and tolerance where there was once holiness and righteousness; this is why believers live fleshly and corrupt lives in the name of love, tolerance, and “forgiveness”. And forgiveness today is understood as acceptance without change, as if it is only important for us to say the words “forgive me” and continue on our own way without any kind of change.

When asking God for forgiveness, He expects us to no longer do what is contrary to His

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will, not to just do away with momentary condemnation in our thoughts and ease our soul. This is how rebellious believers live today; they say, “forgive me” while continuing to walk their own path expecting that, in the name of tolerance and understanding of supposed differences; we will accept their sins and wrong lifestyles as normal behavior.

We must cease to create the kingdom of God according to our worldly standards. The kingdom of heaven requires change in order for us to enter, a change of life and way of thinking. On that day not all believers will enter, and many will be thrown into the lake of fire. Words of tolerance, differences, and phony soulless love will not help on that day. There will come a separation. “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet that was cast into the sea and gathered some of every kind, which, when it was full, they drew to shore; and they sat down and gathered the good into vessels, but threw the bad away. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come forth, separate the wicked from among the just, and cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.” (Matthew 13:47-50)

3. THERE IS COMING A SEPARATION OF THE RELIGIOUS CHURCHES FROM TRUE BELIEVERS. RELIGIOUS CHURCHES WILL BEGIN TO PERSECUTE TRUE BELIEVERS WHO ARE FILLED WITH TRUTH AND THE HOLY SPIRIT.

In these last days, while I am convinced that revival will come, I am also convinced, and personally have experienced that, religious churches that do not stand firm in the truth will,

together with the world, begin to persecute believers and churches that stand for truth and who are surrendered to Jesus. I say this because I firmly believe that it is time for believers who are in these religious and compromising churches to leave them if they wish to save their soul. There is no more time to wait. The theory that claims that it is only important to be faithful to the local church regardless of what kind of state it is in is wrong. It is needful for some to find a healthy and strong church where the Word of God is preached and practiced as the highest authority and where there is prayer for revival.

This implies, of course, that reasons for leaving are not trivial: such as someone failed to greet us like they ought, or we were unable to fulfill some selfish agenda so we run off in the name of “revival”. No, rather it is needful to separate ourselves from the churches that compromise God’s Word.

In Matthew we read, “And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.” (Matthew 7:28-29)

The great difference between the compromising church and Christ’s true church can be seen. In compromising churches the pastors and priests often try to create an atmosphere of God’s presence with technology and professionalism, sometimes even with emotional manipulation. They do all they can so that they appear to have Christ’s power while the people in these churches live worldly and compromising lives. These churches continue

to sink into deeper religiosity, allowing the compromising lives of believers to rule while holiness, righteousness and devotion become a subject of mockery. They accept iniquity and unrighteousness in the name of tolerance and difference, while true power fades and people cease wanting to change.

The next thing that happens is that these churches unite under similar compromise and lifeless denominations that present a culture of acceptance and polite churches seeking for nice, positive company. Yet, in the name of ecumenism and international dialogue they will begin to persecute the so-called “fundamental” or living church of Jesus Christ.

The time has come to remove ourselves from these churches; we do not have time to try and pour new wine into old wineskins because the old wineskins will burst. We will lose both the wineskin and the new wine! Find a

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healthy local church where God’s holiness and righteousness is emphasized and where God’s Word is preached as the only highest authority- that bring life and change - and help build that church.

Apart from the life change Christ desires, I believe that this one of the most important things today is for those who are in lifeless, compromising church where man’s philosophies, and not God’s Word, is the final authority. I personally believe that these churches cannot be easily changed and that it is time to let go of our sentimental feelings tied with religion and join with life and truth! Separation is inevitable for salvation and revival!

Let us remember – God’s Word is truth. Entrance into God’s kingdom requires great change that only Christ Jesus can bring. In true churches holiness, righteousness and evangelizing the world will be emphasized; while in compromising churches the word holiness will be exchanged with understanding, righteousness with tolerance, and evangelizing the world with reshaping interreligious dialogues and fellowship. These kinds of

believers, pastors and churches will not be able to enter God’s kingdom – a few will enter through the narrow gate – only those who hear and do Christ’s commands!

“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide [is] the gate and broad [is] the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow [is] the gate and difficult [is] the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.” (Matthew 7:13-14)

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