

THE “WHO TOLD YOU?” SERIES

A STUDY IN DISCERNING THE VOICES OF OUR DAY

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

Who Told You

That You Are Going To Heaven? – Part 1

Discerning the voices of our day and knowing what to do about what you hear.

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Development, Preparation, Maturity, Discipleship

Introduction and overview to the series

Shall We Stand Together In Responsive Reading

Matthew 7:20-29 NKJV

20 Therefore by their fruits you will know them. **21** “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. **22** 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?”

23 And then I will declare to them, “I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!” **24** “Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: **25** and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. **26** “But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: **27** and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.” **28** And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching, **29** for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

Welcome to Lesson (#1) of our new series entitled,

“Who Told You?”

Why the need for this Series?

What is our expectation for you & this church?

How long will this series last? – As long as it lasts.

**Bringing your attention back to our scripture
reading this morning,**

It is perhaps one of the most frightening portions of Scripture in the Bible. The reason is that it describes a group of people who are completely out of touch with their spiritual reality.

1. They believe that they are saved. 2. They believe they are saved because they have been given a false sense of security. 3. They believe they are saved because they have been used or are being used by God – even to the extent that some have done miraculous things in his name.

But Come The Day of Judgment They Are In Fact Lost!

Our first examination with this question;
“Who Told You?”
That You Are Going To Heaven

John 3:1-8

There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. 2 This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, “Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.” 3 Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” 4 Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” 5 Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not marvel that I said to you, “You must be born again.’

Let’s understand something from the very beginning.

In the Israel of Jesus’ day, the leading religious authorities sincerely believed that they had achieved a place of spiritual reality that they were absolutely acceptable to God. In fact, they honestly believed that they were “righteous” as God would have them to be.

Now, their righteousness was based upon their

understanding of the law and the keeping of the law. They had mastered religion – which meant that a Scribe or a Pharisee was at the top of the “Who’s Who” when it came to entrance into heaven.

Their righteousness was the greatest of all - among men.

But when Jesus came and revealed the true nature of the Gospel - it devastated the proud religionist. Man’s righteousness was not enough...

Matthew 5:20

For I say to you, that unless your righteousness **exceeds** (is better than, bigger than, purer than) the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

It's a sobering, terrifying thought actually, to consider the fact, that according to the Bible there are many people today who are absolutely certain they've "received salvation", when the fact is, they have either been convinced into thinking they have salvation or they have convinced themselves that they have it when in reality they do not.

Today we begin by looking at what the Bible say is the main difference between true and false Christians?

Who Told You That You Are Going To Heaven

1.) What is the Gospel message?

1a.) The Gospel is God's word to man

The Gospel has come to us by both "Revelation" and by "Inspiration". By Inspiration it is verifiably inerrant, tested, examined, and proven reliable word. By Revelation The Gospel is the Central Theme of the entire Bible and has been revealed in power.

1 Corinthians 15:1-4

Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, 2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. 3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that (1) Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and (2) that He was buried, and (3) that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.

Acts 4:12 KJV

Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Philippians 2:8-11

And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. 9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

So devoted was Paul to the Mission of Presenting the Gospel that when

Acts 20:20-21, 24-28

I kept back nothing that was helpful, but **proclaimed** it to you, and **taught** you publicly and from house to house, **21 testifying** to Jews, and also to Greeks, (1) repentance toward God and (2) faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ, **24** None of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my course with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, **to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. 25** “And indeed, now I know that you all, **among whom I have gone preaching** the kingdom of God, will see my face no more. **26** Therefore I **testify** to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men. **27** For I have not **shunned** (hupo’stello – an act of cowardice to keep something hidden, to not disclose, to keep secret for personal approval), to declare to you the **whole counsel of God. 28** Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

Sadly, the true Gospel has fallen into bad company in our day and has become scarce in the pulpits of America.

In its place is preached a way to God without a cross,
An “easy-believe-ism” adherence...

“Who Told You That Saying?”

“Just believe, God knows your heart”, “Turn to God and He will help you”,
“If you will come forward you’ll be saved”, or “Would you like to accept Christ”,
“Just Believe in God” – God Who?

“Pope stresses interfaith unity: ‘We are all children of God’”

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/in-first-video-message-pope-francis-stresses-unitywe-are-all-children-of-god-39381/>

“Heaven for the Atheists? – Pope sparks debate”

<http://religion.blogs.cnn.com/2013/05/23/heaven-for-atheists-pope-sparks-debate/commentpage-45/>

(CNN) — American atheists welcomed Pope Francis' comments that God redeems nonbelievers, saying that the new pontiff's historic outreach is helping to topple longstanding barriers. "The Lord has redeemed all of us, all of us, with the Blood of Christ: all of us, not just Catholics. Everyone," The Pope told worshipers at morning Mass on Wednesday. "Father, the atheists?' Even the atheists. Everyone!"

Chad Pecknold, Assistant professor of theology at the Catholic University of America, agrees pointing out that the pope's comments came on the Feast of Saint Rita, the Catholic patron saint of impossible things. "The remarks about atheists show that there is even a saint for atheists," Pecknold said. "Including all of humanity, on this day especially, remarks like that are almost called for." "To stress that the gospel redeems all people, including atheists, is the teaching of the church," he added. "This is an objective fact that the church believes."

Roy Speckhardt, Executive director of the American Humanist Association, said that although he has been skeptical of Pope Francis' outreach to the nonreligious, he welcomed Wednesday's comments, saying "I gather from this statement that his view of the world's religious and philosophical diversity is expanding," Speckhardt said. "While humanists have been saying for years that one can be good without a god, hearing this from the leader of the Catholic Church is quite heartening." He continued, "If other religious leaders join him, it could do much to reduce the automatic distrust and discrimination that atheists, humanists, and other non-theists so regularly face."

Where Does Such Deception Lead - - This Last Summer "Presbyterian Church of America Prays to Allah"

<http://www1.cbn.com/cbnnews/2016/june/mainline-christian-denomination-praying-to-allah>

"Allah bless us and bless our families and bless our Lord. Lead us on the straight path - the path of all prophets: Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Moses, Jesus, and Muhammad."

Who Told You That You Are Going To Heaven What Is The Gospel Message

1b.) The Gospel is God's work for man

(1) It was initiated by God. (2) It finds mankind where he is. (3) Its external power exposes our internal struggle. (4) The Gospel answers our most difficult longings.

2 Corinthians 5:19

God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself,

1c.) The Gospel is God's way for man

It Prevents Man As He Is...

It's a way that man would not have, could not have made up for himself, because God's way actually prevents man from entering heaven as he is - on his own merits.

**The true gospel is offensive to the heart and mind of man!
The Gospel is God's Way of Salvation**

Matthew 7:13-14

“**Enter** (command) by the **narrow gate** (specific); for **wide** (popular, agreeable) is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are **many** (most) who go in by it. **14** (why make the effort to “enter?”) Because **narrow** is the gate and **difficult is the way** which leads to life, and there are **few** (O so few) who **find** it.

The “**Finding**” presupposes a **searching** and **longing**; all true for a **soul in crisis**.

There are only two paths a man can travel in life.

(1) Is deceptively lined with temptations, indulges, trinkets and toys, (this path is ego-centric, often convenient and caters to the flesh).

Where does such a man-made theology lead you - Hell?

How Narrow can Narrow be?

Matthew 7:15

“Beware of **false prophets**, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, (externally draped with or outwardly covered or representative), but inwardly (motivated) they are ravenous wolves (hungry for a soul).

2 Corinthians 11:3

I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from **the simplicity that is in Christ**. 4 For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted—you may well put up with it!

(2) The other path is simple, single, straight, and is relentlessly drawing a man’s “lost soul”, his “condemned spirit”, out toward the love of God, and the cross of Christ (This path is hard, for it goes against this world and it is expensive because it cost God all that He had).

It is jealously possessive, constantly pursuing you from within, (This path is Christ-centric, unnerving, uncomfortable within you).

>>>> The Cross, The Christ, The Call <<<<

_____ **End of Study** _____

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