

John Newlin Ministries, Inc.

- realizing the power of a life in Christ-

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

– Matthew 7:21

Some consider this the most frightening verse in the Bible. I expect you haven’t heard any sermons preached on this one, have you?

For a very long time in our modern day, the churches have doted on the fact that a person has to do nothing to be in Heaven, in the Kingdom of God, other than just believe in Jesus.

Well, certainly, a person physically does not have to do anything to be in Heaven, in the Kingdom. Jesus paid the price for each of us to get there. That is the basis for the statement that it is by grace we have been saved and not by works.

But Jesus did say several verses that bear on being in the Kingdom of God. In the Bible, all these verses have to be considered. They are all said by Jesus. We have to put them all together. You can’t just read one and ignore the others. You can’t pick and choose scripture.

There is the most famous verse in the Bible – John 3:16 –

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

I have said over and over in so many paces that this “belief” here is solid belief, like you believe there is enough oxygen in the room in which you are living to keep you alive; otherwise, you would be running out the door. In other words, absolute belief. Not that modern way we often use the word believe in normal conversation, which is much weaker.

But then there is this fundamental verse, the one Jesus said when he was speaking to Nicodemus in John 3:5

“Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit.

So there has to be a real spiritual rebirth. Back in John 1 the writer notes that it is as if God himself becomes our father. In fact, the Good News Translation actually says that directly:

Keep Your Eyes on Jesus!

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¹² Some, however, did receive him and believed in him; so he gave them the right to become God's children. ¹³ They did not become God's children by natural means, that is, by being born as the children of a human father; **God himself was their Father.** (Good News Translation) – Emphasis added by me.

And then we have the verse in the title. This is said in a section where people have come to tell Jesus all they have been doing in his name. Unfortunately for them, he says he never knew them. So they don't get into the Kingdom obviously. They may have been doing good works but they missed the point. They weren't doing the will of God. They didn't focus on knowing Jesus.

Here is the full section from which the title was taken:

²¹ "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²² Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?' ²³ Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!' – Matthew 7

Now if that isn't disturbing enough, there is one more verse in Matthew 18:

² He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. ³ And he said: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

In other words, a person must be as innocent and believing as a little child.

So we have several key scriptures right out of the mouth of Jesus himself, reported to us by the disciples John and Matthew. Pretty good witnesses, I'd say.

Yes, we of course must have absolute belief. But we also must live to fulfill God's will as we understand it. And we must be born again, born anew. We must have that new spirit in us. We have to become the new creation Paul refers to when he says in 2 Corinthians 5 that the old has gone and the new has come.

This is all serious business indeed! Really serious.

Just going and sitting in a church week after week and hearing sermons does not do it. And just saying you believe in Jesus apparently on its own is not enough, at least not unless you have that rock solid belief. I fear so many of those who think they are Christians are going to have a big surprise soon. Back to the title scripture. Just how does anyone do the will of God? Well, I think Jesus put it best when he said these two scriptures:

¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command. – John 15:14

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¹⁵ “If you love me, keep my commands.— John 14:15

Basically, do what Jesus tells you to do if you want to be his friend and if you love him. I would think that would fit in with doing God’s will.

If you have the Holy Spirit living in you, if you have been baptized with the Spirit, you want to do God’s will and you will generally know that in the situations you encounter. That all comes with being born again and being filled with and baptized with the Holy Spirit.

I wrote about what it takes to get into Heaven in Chapter 11 in our book WAKE UP AMERICA! And we produced a CD on that and also did two television programs titled “Getting into Heaven” which you can watch on YOUTUBE and our website. It’s an incredibly important subject, not one to be ignored. And surely not at this time.

Only two real groups of people are on earth now: Those who know Jesus and already are his believers, members of the Kingdom of God, and those who don’t and aren’t. This second group is lost. Unless something happens that opens the eyes of people in this second group so they can see the truth and receive Jesus as their Lord and Savior, they are not going to have a good future.

KEEP YOUR EYES ON JESUS!

NEVER FORGET THE GREAT TRUTH OF OUR TIME: Everything is secondary right now to the fact that Jesus is coming soon and that to be in the Kingdom, to go with him, you must be a true believer in him. You must be born anew. Jesus must be your Lord.

Our thanks again to all who contribute to this ministry with your financial donations as well as to all those who pray for us and assist in other ways! *(All contributions to John Newlin Ministries, Inc. – whether money or material goods or stocks or bonds – are tax deductible. John Newlin Ministries, Inc. is a 501 © 3 nonprofit corporation.)*

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May you live in the blessings of God always.

John

PLEASE: Email or print and send copies of this newsletter to whomever you would.

Remember always:

If you do not stand firm in your faith,
you will not stand at all.' – Isaiah 7:9b

“Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. –
Matthew 10:32

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