

Does Jesus Know You?

Hosea 8:1-14; Matthew 7:21-23 / Isaiah 48:17-22

I. Grace Is Free but Not Cheap

A. Jesus warned believers about taking salvation for granted. Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. (MATTHEW 7:21)

B. The Northern Kingdom had to learn the danger of presumption. Israel shall cry unto me, My God, we know thee. Israel hath cast off the thing that is good: the enemy shall pursue him. (HOSEA 8:2-3) along with For they have sown the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind: it hath no stalk: the bud shall yield no meal: if so be it yield, the strangers shall swallow it up. (HOSEA 8:7)

C. Come as you are works better in America than at the bar of eternity. They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate. (TITUS 1:16)

D. As the time of the cross approached, the Man of Sorrows became increasingly more emphatic about grace. And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. (MATTHEW 18:3)

E. Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life. (PROVERBS 4:23) along with And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. (ROMANS 12:2)

II. Do Not Argue with God

A. Some people appear to think they have obligated God to save them. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? (MATTHEW 7:22)

B. God does not hesitate to make examples of fakers. Then certain of the vagabond Jews, exorcists, took upon them to call over them which had evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth. And there were seven sons of one Sceva, a Jew, and chief of the priests, which did so. And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye? And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. And this was known to all the Jews and Greeks also dwelling at Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified. And many that believed came, and confessed, and shewed their deeds. Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all men: and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver. So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed. (ACTS 19:13-20)

C. Even when something has positive results it may have the wrong foundation. The one preach Christ of contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds: (PHILIPPIANS 1:16)

D. Do not cultivate an attitude with God. The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, and the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day. (ISAIAH 2:11) along with For he is not a man, as I am, that I should answer him, and we should come together in judgment. Neither is there any daysman betwixt us, that might lay his hand upon us both. (JOB 9:32-33)

E. Sometimes people forget the membership terms in the family of God. As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: (ROMANS 3:10) along with Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement. (ROMANS 5:9-11)

III. New Lives Are Changed Lives

A. No genuine believer wants a rap-sheet-review. But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away. (Isaiah 64:6) along with If thou, LORD, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? But there is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared. (PSALM 130:3-4)

B. Some words will haunt eternity. And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. (MATTHEW 7:23)

C. It is tragic when people lie to themselves. But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: (JAMES 1:22-23)

D. Meditate on the terms and conditions of grace. Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity. (2 TIMOTHY 2:19)

+ Dr. Edwin P. Elliott
9400 Fairview Avenue
Manassas, Virginia 20110