

Therefore many of them believed, along with a number of prominent Greek women and men.

Acts 17:12

Store In My Heart

Matthew 7:7

Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

While this verse gives us great assurance that God is ready to help us, we must remember that His desire is to help us come to Him.

Some would take this verse to mean that God will do anything that we ask of him. The context of Scripture, though, teaches us that He is not interested in helping us have fun or an easy life here on Earth. He does, however, want us to know His love and the peace that comes from a relationship with Him.

We must keep our desires in line with His will that we might draw close to Him and live a life of righteousness and humility. When our requests are to bring us closer to these things, we can be confident that He will grant what we seek and help us to achieve our goals.



Misplaced Confidence

Glen Young

The story is told of a certain Midwestern city with a hospital that maintained its own fire-fighting equipment. If ever a fire broke out within the walls of the hospital, anyone could reach for a nearby hose on the wall and extinguish it. For about thirty-five years the hospital operated totally free from fires. The hospital's safety record was impeccable. The state-of-the-art system never had to be used.

One day, an inspection was made of the system. The inspection revealed a very interesting and alarming situation. The pipe that was to carry the water into the building and, subsequently, into the fire-fighting system had NEVER been connected to the WATER source!

For thirty-five years, the people who worked in and used the hospital had complete confidence in a system that would not work! The system had all the hoses and equipment it needed. The only problem was that it had no connection to the most important part of the whole system, the WATER!

There are millions who have complete confidence in the religion they observe. And yet, the religion is fatally flawed. Like the fire-fighting system in our illustration, it only takes one error to make the whole of no value. Jesus points out the end of those who have complete confidence in flawed religion when He says, *"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).

Some will try to soften the impact of Jesus' words by suggesting that the rejected ones are hypocrites. Take note that those who are rejected are the ones who do not do "the will of My Father in heaven". These words could indeed apply to those who are hypocrites. However, they can just as easily apply to the sincere

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For Our Information

John & Betty Ragsdale had an auto accident on the way home last Wednesday evening. They are doing ok though a little sore but had no major injuries.

Marsha Clayton, Dan & JoBeth's neighbor is in rehab in Hot Springs after successful hip repair surgery following her fall last weekend.

Tonight we start in 1Kings 22:29.

Wednesday we are in 2Timothy 4.

Pray for safety, courage & healing.

practitioner of a religion. How can this be, you ask? When the doctrine and practice of the religion either omits or overtly breaks one of the Lord's commands.

It is difficult for many to accept this fact. The reason for this is the standard that society has set for religious interaction. We are told that we must accept everyone's religious beliefs and practices. On the surface, this "let's just all get-along" mantra seems benign and worthy of emulation. However, the logical mind will understand that it is impossible.

How is it impossible? To answer this, we will explore some religious beliefs and practices. There are those who believe that becoming human bombs to kill infidels will guarantee them entrance into Heaven. They, no doubt, have complete confidence in their religious belief. They have been taught and believe they are doing this heinous act with God's blessing. It is my contention that these will be among those who the Lord says "*depart from Me*".

Another group of religious practitioners deny that Jesus is the Christ. They will say that Jesus was a prophet and good man. But, they teach that the Messiah has not yet come. They deny the necessity of the blood of Jesus to take away sins.

If you have read this far, you probably agree that the two mentioned religions are wrong. Therefore, you must also agree that true Christianity cannot "get-along" with those who believe and practice these egregious errors.

But wait, it does not stop here. There are many who claim to follow Christ that openly rebel against His teachings. Not the least of these is the denial of baptism in water for remission of sins. Many reside with complete confidence in religions that teach salvation by faith only or grace alone. Their end shall be to hear the Lord say, '*I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!*'.

(The cause of their misplaced confidence is very clear. They did not investigate the system in which they placed their confidence. The flaw in the system would have been found quickly if they had just taken the time to inspect (investigate) at the beginning or any other time. This is why it is so important for us to "*examining the Scriptures*" to see if the teachings are actually from God. **(Acts 17:11)** We can never be certain that we are on the right path if we do not take the time to investigate the instructions we follow. The only one who can be trusted completely is God Himself. Take time to study the Scriptures daily. Investigate even the things you have practiced for years. Verification of right action will bring reliable confidence. Evidence of wrong provides chance for repentance and correction. DLH)



We seek only to serve God according to His Will!