

## SCRIPTURE

### THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. MATTHEW

#### CHAPTER 7

**Mt 7:1.** Judge not, that ye be not judged.

**Mt 7:2.** For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged (or for in the same way you judge others, you will be judged): and with what standard of measure ye mete (or use), it shall be measured to you again.

## COMMENTARY

#### CHAPTER 7

**Mt 7:1.** Next God's Word gives a command. That command is to judge not. We may say beware, and the reason is given in verse 2. The only one that can judge perfectly all the time is God, Who can see into the hearts and thoughts of people.

This does not mean that a born again Christian should never make a judgment of any kind or for any reason.

The Bible, for example, shows the Christian that they are to mark those that cause divisions among you, and don't receive certain persons.

Here it indicates that a person is not to judge the inner motives of a person or make decisions upon prejudiced information.

This is mainly speaking of Christians judging other Christians.

As has just been covered in **Mt 7:1**, Judge not, that ye be not judged.

**Mt 7:2.** This verse brings a warning to those that judge. For in the same way you judge (or look at the situation of) others, this is the way you will be judged (or looked at).

And with whatever measure you use (or determine, or dish out), it shall return to you in the same way.

It is better not to judge at all, than to judge situations wrongly.

Do not jump on people for their failures or rail on them for their faults, because as you do to others, it shall be done to you. Judging situations, when your emotions are stirred, can

bring faulty evaluations.

The person that has a critical way of judging others will find that it will return to them.

The person that treats others badly will find they shall be treated badly.

If you judge others harshly, you shall be judged in that same manner. If you judge in love and honestly, the same will return to you.

Do you want God to judge you harshly and critically? Be merciful and of an understanding heart.

Don't let your past affect the way you judge now.

Judge yourself, rather than others.

Let Jesus change you into being more like Him.

In judging others, you may condemn yourself and be in shame-ref Ez 16:63.

In considering this, it would be better to judge not, as verse one states. For God will judge all we do.

All people have some discoloring in their eyes, except Jesus. Past hurts, and experiences, and even education and situations and a lack of knowledge on certain subjects and on understanding the Bible, and far more: all can influence a persons viewpoint and judgment.

Thus, with what kind of a judgment you judge, you will be, in turn, judged. Again, it is better not to judge at all.

As has just been covered in **Mt 7:2**, For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged (or for in the same way you judge others, you will

**Mt 7:3.** And why beholdest thou (or why do you look at) the mote (or speck of sawdust) that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not (or pay no attention to) the beam (or log) that is in thine own eye?

be judged): and with what standard of measure ye mete (or use), it shall be measured to you again.

**Mt 7:3.** Beware about casting out the speck in your brother's eye, when you have a boulder in your own eye.

Why do you always seem to find things wrong or criticize others, but you do not seem to notice your own bad attitude or things you do wrong?

And why do you take note of the tiny speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider for a moment the huge piece of wood that is in your own eye?

This verse points at the religious people in the days of Jesus, but also to all people and generations.

Most people have a way of noticing even the smallest imperfections in the way others act or look, but never look at themselves, regarding the type of person they are. Or if they do look at themselves, they do not see themselves as they truly are.

They are quick to pounce on the smallest things, regarding even their best friends, but they consider little regarding themselves.

It is far easier to find fault or to see the sins of others, than to acknowledge your own faults or sins. Those that will not admit they are a sinner are eternally lost; for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.

The words, "I am not such a bad person," are not uncommon among those that perish.

The closer a person is to the light, the more they can see the dirt.

The brighter the light is, the more easily the dirt can be identified.

**Mt 7:4.** Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote (or speck) out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam (or plank, or log) is in thine own eye?

When a person examines themselves by man's standards, what can they see except darkness?

When a person examines themselves by God's Word, in truth, the dirt should be clearly seen.

As has just been covered in **Mt 7:3**, And why beholdest thou (or why do you look at) the mote (or speck of sawdust) that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not (or pay no attention to) the beam (or log) that is in thine own eye?

**Mt 7:4.** How is it that you believe you can correct your brothers in Christ, for the little things they do, but you do not even recognize the big things you do that others can clearly see?

Often those that are not strong in faith, or their understanding of God's Word is poor, incorrectly believe they are strong in faith. Satan deceives the whole world, but those with the least amount of faith are more easily deceived. Yet Satan cannot deceive any in Christ beyond that which they are able to endure.

Most of the entire world believes they will never go to the lake of fire, yet they do. Few can judge themselves, yet they think they can judge others.

1 Cor 10:13-No temptation has taken you except what is common to man. God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted above what you are able, but will with the temptation also make the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

As has just been covered in **Mt 7:4**, Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote (or speck) out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam (or plank or log) is in thine own eye?

**Mt 7:5.** Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam (or plant, or log) out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote (or speck) out of thy brother's eye.

**Mt 7:5.** A person that has not first corrected their own huge shortcomings (or faults, or sins), should not presume that they can correctly see and understand the small shortcomings (or faults, or sins) of their brothers in Christ.

Jesus calls those that are weaker in faith, who seek to correct others that are stronger in faith—"thou hypocrite."

Then He admonishes the one that is weaker in faith, to first cast out the **beam** out of their own eye (that is, He admonishes them to repent themselves and overcome). Then they should be able to correct their brother.

Note: to become stronger in faith, and to overcome, and to be able to see more clearly, requires both devouring God's Word and being a doer of God's Word.

Humbleness is needed to draw closer to God. God resists the proud.

The worldly or carnal Christian is spiritually very shallow, as they have a beam in their eye. They are a baby Christian. Many Christians in this latter day generation are baby Christians, even though they may have been saved for many years. They have no understanding of the deeper things of God, such as the meat of God's Word, which is perfection.

CHURCHES THAT USE AN ABUNDANT AMOUNT OF STORIES AND LITTLE SCRIPTURE ARE OF LITTLE VALUE IN HELPING A PERSON TO GROW IN FAITH AND IN THE WISDOM OF THE LORD.

The church has the responsibility of correcting, yet few do this anymore, as this last church age is the worst church age ever. It is wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked-ref Rev

**Mt 7:6.** Give not that which is holy (or sacred) unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine (or pigs), lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you (or tear you to pieces).

3:17,18.

As has just been covered in **Mt 7:5**, Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.

**Mt 7:6.** That which **is holy** is God. It is God's Word. It is Jesus.

The **dogs** and **swine** represent the **unsaved** that are **reprobate**, those that have heard the Gospel and have **deliberately rejected it**. These can also be those that were once saved, but went back to their old ways and became reprobate. The dogs can represent the blind leaders of the blind, of whom Jesus said, **let them alone**-ref Mt 15:14.

Dogs and pigs were both despised in the days of Jesus.

When bringing forth the Gospel, one should consider if they are giving it to the reprobate and haters of God, or those that are otherwise.

Some believe, in a manner of speaking, that they should witness to everything that moves. The Bible does not support this.

Both can represent those that have committed the unforgivable sin, that is, blasphemy against the Holy Spirit.

The **pearls** also can represent God's Word.

Jesus tells His followers, do not give people, such as these, God's Word, lest they trample the Scriptures under their feet, and then turn again to rend (or tear) you, or even put you into prison.

An excellent example of this may be when Paul addressed the crowd and such people, in Acts 22:22, 23-And they gave him audience

**Mt 7:7.** Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and (the door) it shall be opened unto you:

unto this word, and then lifted up their voices, and said, Away with such a fellow from the earth: for it is not fit that he should live. And they cried out, and cast off their clothes, and threw dust into the air.

As has just been covered in **Mt 7:6**, Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you.

**Mt 7:7.** Jesus tells His followers to ask, and it shall be given. Seek, and ye shall find. Knock, and it shall be opened to you.

When asking, seeking, and knocking, it needs to be according to the Scriptures and according to God's will.

Many throughout the Old and New Testament asked God for many things, and it was granted. However, this was not always the case.

Jesus asked His Father that the horrible things He was about to go through would be removed. He asked that this cup be removed from Him.

Mt 26:39-And he (Jesus) went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.

Mt 26:42-He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done.

But it was the will of the heavenly Father that Jesus would go through the most agonizing, the most brutal physical and emotional suffering possible, and then die, as He took upon Himself the sins of all mankind, those that would trust in Him and repent, bearing in His body their punishment, which included separation from the presence of His Father.

**Mt 7:8.** For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

As has just been covered in **Mt 7:7**, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and (the door) it shall be opened unto you:

**Mt 7:8.** Everyone that asks does receive, if it be in accordance with the Scriptures, and if it be God's will.

One might ask that certain **hindrances** be stopped, which Satan has brought against their ministry and outreach of teaching Jesus.

In some cases, God may do it. In some cases, He may not. The religious establishment in the days of Jesus continued to try and hinder Him; and then, finally, were allowed to crucify Him.

In some cases, a person may seek to be **healed**. In some cases, it is granted; in some cases, it is not. In Paul's case, it was not.

Paul asked that the thorn in his flesh, the messenger of Satan that bothered him greatly, would be removed. His prayer was not granted.

2 Cor 12:7-9. And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me **a thorn in the flesh**, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.

8 For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me.

9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

2 Tim 3:11-12-Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus **shall suffer persecution**.

As has just been covered in **Mt 7:8**, For every



**Mt 7:9.** Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask (for)(a loaf of) bread, will he give him a stone?

**Mt 7:10.** Or if he ask (for) a fish, will he give him a serpent (or snake)?

**Mt 7:11.** If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things (or gifts) to them that ask him?

one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

**Mt 7:9.** Jesus is asking: if your son asks you for bread, will you give him a stone, or will you give him less than what he asks?

As has just been covered in **Mt 7:9**, Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask (for)(a loaf of) bread, will he give him a stone?

**Mt 7:10.** Or if your son asks you for a fish, will you give him something bad, or give him less than he asks?

As has just been covered in **Mt 7:10**. Or if he ask (for) a fish, will he give him a serpent (or snake)?

**Mt 7:11.** Jesus then answers these questions in this manner. If even an evil person knows how to give good things to his own children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good things to those that ask Him? However, those good things must be according to the will of God, which means in accordance with His Word.

Note: Although not stated in this verse, it needs to be understood that God knows all things, past, present, and future. Having that knowledge, He knows that if He would give us certain things we might desire, it could do us harm, and not good.

Although "**Life is a test for each person**," this is little understood by most lukewarm Bible teachers. It is not understood by the unsaved.

Note, in Heb 4:15-Jesus was in all points tempted (or tested) like as [we are, yet] without sin. Each person can expect to be tempted or tested by Satan, who is the tempter.

Satan had earlier tempted Adam, but he had failed. He then tempted Eve, and she disobeyed God. Then Satan used Eve to tempt Adam, and it worked. Adam disobeyed God.

As already stated, God in heaven will give good things to His children that ask Him, but according to His will for our good and not for our destruction. But also He can give far more good things than expected.

Paul might have sought the Lord to lighten the burden that was upon him. Those burdens included infirmities, being reproached, having necessities, suffering great persecutions, and being in great distress for Christ.

Paul was beaten with stripes almost above being counted. He was in many situations where he could have died. He was stoned. He went hungry and thirsty many times. He had been very cold, and had been naked. In addition, he had great concern for all the churches.

But did Paul complain? He took pleasure in these things. He said: I am become a fool in glorying; ye have compelled me: for I ought to have been commended of you: for in nothing am I behind the very chiefest apostles, though I be nothing. Paul should have been commended or esteemed highly, yet he was not.

Paul was being tested. You are being tested to see how you will react in many situations, including all sorts of hardships and difficulties. Jesus suffered many things and was held in contempt. He was rejected by most.

Yes, God will give good things to them that ask Him, but we, through sufferings, hardships, and persecutions, will be tested to see if our faith is genuine.

**Mt 7:12.** Therefore all things whatsoever ye would (or desire) that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law (or sums up the law) and the prophets.

**Mt 7:13.** Enter ye in at the strait (or narrow) gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

As has just been covered in **Mt 7:9**, Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask (for)(a loaf of) bread, will he give him a stone?

**Mt 7:10.** Or if he ask (for) a fish, will he give him a serpent (or snake)?

**Mt 7:11.** If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things (or gifts) to them that ask him?

**Mt 7:12.** This reveals to us a **law** of God. That law is whatever you desire (or wish, or hope) that others “should” do to you, you are to do to them. Lk 6:31 says: And as ye would (or wish) that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise.

Treat others the way you want people to treat you.

Love your neighbor as yourself.

Do good to them that misuse you.

This should be ingrained in the hearts of all.

The law and the prophets is referring to the books of the Old Testament.

Some may say, this is the Golden Rule.

As has just been covered in **Mt 7:12**, Therefore all things whatsoever ye would (or desire) that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law (or sums up the law) and the prophets.

**Mt 7:13.** This verse is little understood by most Christians in this latter day generation. This verse is in harmony with many others. The number of people that perish is very, very high. Most are not going to heaven. Most will perish to the lake of fire. However, as has been clearly shown by God’s Word, and even with surveys, most will never believe this, until it happens to them. Few diligently immerse themselves in God’s Word in humbleness, repentance, and obedience. Few understand.

To put it plainly: All unbelievers, all cults, the Roman Catholic and Greek Orthodox churches and most of Christianity shall perish. The Pharisees, and Sadducees were leading people to eternal damnation. They were going to perish and all that followed them were also perishing. The blind cannot lead the blind.

Note, regarding eternity, there are only two gates, or paths, or ways, or possibilities, or fruits, or destinations, or foundations, or builders.

Note, there is both a gate and a way (or path). It is written: **Enter ye in.** There is something each person is to enter.

Next are the words **at the strait gate.**

The **strait gate** is Jesus, Who is the Word of God. This refers to God's way to be saved. This gate includes **repentance** and **faith** in **Jesus Christ**, Who is come in the flesh. Faith can only come through God's Word.

It refers to entering into a relationship with Christ, which includes following and obeying Him.

It is also written: Repent and be "**baptized**" everyone-ref Acts 2:38; Mt 28:19,20. The strait gate also involves **obedience**; as it is written in Heb 5:9-...He became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him.

This verse continues: For **wide is the gate.** This reveals there is a second gate. However, this gate is not strait, but wide. Many so-called Christians believe, by their actions, that the wide gate is sufficient to be saved. The wide can include everything imaginable, except the truth of God's Word.

The verse continues with the words: and

## **broad is the way.**

The **wide gate** allows multitudes to enter.

The **broad way** is like a street with many lanes for travel.

The next part of the verse tells that the **wide gate** and **broad way** lead to destruction, which is a place called hell. This is followed by the Great White Throne Judgment, and then the eternal lake of fire.

The last part of the verse reveals that the number of people, who enter this **wide gate** and travel this **broad way**, and ultimately perish to hell—are **MANY**.

By using Scripture relating to what has just been said and having been a partaker with those that have visited over 100,000 houses, it appears the number of people that have a desire to devour God's Word and that bear good fruit according to the Bible, is very, very few.

It may be said that if a person's faith in Jesus is required to be strong enough to die for Christ by being beheaded, then only a very few would do so, a very few.

If your faith is not strong enough to stand that test, then you are in danger of eternal damnation. If your life does not belong to Christ, and it does not reflect Christ, you are in danger.

If your faith does not grow to be strong enough to follow and obey Christ, you are in spiritual trouble.

A person's faith needs to overcome the cares of this life, the deceitfulness of riches, the lusts of other things, the pleasures of this world, and selfishness or self-centeredness. Christ is not to be a part of your life—He is to be your life.

If your Bible reading and study is only done when you find time after many other things are accomplished, then you are not putting Christ first.

Faith comes only from God's Word.

It seems most churches and TV and radio ministries use only a little of God's Word in their teaching, but lots of stories and philosophy. Many that attend church know far more about their minister and his family, than they do about about Jesus and His family.

Plus, it is a very rare TV or radio ministry or church that encourages those that hear them to devour God's Word (the Bible), as if it was **more necessary than their necessary food**.

The message of denying yourself, taking up your cross, and following Jesus, which is following the Word, has all but disappeared from the lukewarm pulpits of this age.

Indeed, when the Rapture comes, Jesus will only find a few that will be accounted worthy. Most will be left behind, because they did not devour God's Word, as they should have, and they did not obey God's Word and follow Jesus.

Jesus is the strait gate and narrow way.

As has just been covered in **Mt 7:13**, Enter ye in at the strait (or narrow) gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

**Mt 7:14.** Because strait (or small) is the gate, and narrow is the way (or road), which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

**Mt 7:14.** This verse explains v. 13, as it begins with the word "because."

Then the **strait gate** from the previous verse is mentioned.

This is followed by a new term called the

**narrow way.** The two terms combined lead to eternal life.

The **strait gate** (which is Jesus) is followed by a **narrow way** (or road), a road of testing that is to follow, which is to prove if a person's faith, faithfulness, and love is genuine.

The verse ends with the number of people that enter the **strait gate** and follow the **narrow way** (or path) to the end. That number is only a **FEW**. This is supported by many other verses as well.

All lukewarm Christians will perish.

The narrow way is the road the born again Christian is to follow.

The journey begins with committing one's life to Jesus Christ, the strait gate-ref Jn 10:9.

The **narrow way** (or path) is paved with the **Word of God**, Jesus is the Way-ref Jn 14:6. This is what all that inherit eternal life must follow and obey. Only the Word of God can produce faith. A Christian walks the narrow way by faith in Jesus Christ. He keeps his eyes fixed on Christ.

The way or road is paved with a life of sacrifice.

It is paved with persecutions.

It is paved with temptations, surprises, detours, and storms.

It is paved with obeying God's Word.

It is paved with loving the brethren and loving one's enemies.

It is paved with being transformed and conforming to the image of Christ.

If the road a person follows is mixed with following the world, prosperity and riches, and also trying to follow Jesus, then it is not the narrow road or narrow way, but the wide or

broad one that leads to hell.

The Word of God (that is, the Bible, the Holy Scriptures) are the words that will judge each at the Judgment.

Failure to devour God's Word and obey it leads to everlasting torment.

Lukewarm Christians are those with one foot in the world, and the other trying to follow Christ. These will find themselves left behind when the Rapture comes. Their excuses will do no good. When left behind, they will be surprised and afraid, and will make excuses to justify themselves.

As it is written, in Mt 7:14: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

Lk 13:24-Be striving to go in through the straight gate, because many, I say to you, will seek to go in, and shall not be able-YLT.

Note: The Bible calls this latter day church lukewarm, but also wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked-ref Rev 3:16, 17. It is also referred to as slumbering and sleeping, as the Rapture draws closer-ref Mt 25:5.

Most churches use lots of stories, but little Scripture. Some churches do everything possible to offend no one, which includes no altar calls. The Word they preach is brought forth in a manner that does not convict people of sin. No public commitment to Christ is needed. And the people love to have it this way.

After service when these people leave the church, their thoughts and conversation are centered on the things of this world, and not on Jesus or the Bible.



For the most part, gone is the teaching that God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints-Ps 89:7.

The sacred hymns of the Philadelphia church age of 100 years ago have all but disappeared in most churches today. These hymns, which were often filled with sound Bible doctrine, have been replaced with simple repetitive choruses and with contemporary, worldly music.

In addition, few are warning their congregations that the Rapture is coming soon. They are not warning them that most will not be taken.

The church age of right now is the church age of those that will no longer endure sound doctrine, but they seek those that will teach what their ears itch to hear.

This is the church age of saying a prayer and being eternally saved. No repentance or commitment to God or His Word is needed in some.

In visiting many Bible-believing churches, we have not found any that tell their followers to read and study the Bible faithfully, and to obey it.

This even includes the Bible belt of North Carolina.

As has just been covered in **Mt 7:14**, Because strait (or small) is the gate, and narrow is the way (or road), which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

**Mt 7:15.** This verse begins with a word of warning: Beware.

Then the words "false prophets" are used.

This is followed with: WHICH COME TO YOU.

**Mt 7:15.** Beware of (or watch out for) false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening (or ferocious) wolves.

In today's society the words could be: Beware of false ministers, or false Bible teachers, priests, and rabbi.

God's Word then says that the false prophets (or false teachers, or false ministers) come in **sheep's clothing**. This means they look like the real thing. They themselves believe they are ministers of God. They believe they follow the Bible.

They believe they are saved.

They believe they walk in the light.

But then God's Word tells what they are inside. Inwardly, they are like ravening (or cruel, or vicious) wolves.

This is further confirmed in 2 Cor 11:13-15.

For such are false apostles, deceitful workers (which can include ministers, Sunday School teachers, elders, priests, and rabbi), transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.

And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

Therefore it is no great thing if **his ministers** also be transformed as the **ministers of righteousness**; whose end shall be according to their works.

These ministers, priests, and rabbi that are not of God are of Satan. Nevertheless, Satan's ministers appear to be the real thing. They look like they are of God. They look like ministers of righteousness, and they deceive many.

God's Word tells us, regarding these false teachers, or ministers, or prophets, that they love to be noticed. They love to sit in seats of importance in the church. They love to have

people greet them in the market places.

They are really like graves. They lead people to hell, but most people are totally unaware they are not true ministers of God.

People are totally unaware they are the blind leaders of the blind. People are sure they represent God-ref Lk 11:42-44.

Yet they pass over judgment and the love of God.

Jesus spoke of the false teachers of His day, that they taught one thing, but did another.

They looked good (or beautiful) on the outside, but inside, they were full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness-ref Mt 23:27.

They appear righteous to the masses of people, even kind and loving; but inwardly, they are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.

Unless a person is well-versed in the Scriptures, it is difficult to understand and discern the true ministers of God versus the ones that are not.

So how, then, can the true ministers of God be identified?

1 Jn 4:2, 3-HEREBY KNOW YE the Spirit of God: every spirit that **confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God**: and every spirit that **confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God**: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.

2 Jn 7-For many **deceivers** are entered into the world, who **confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh**. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.

Does your minister, priest, rabbi, or Bible

teacher EVER confess that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh, without being asked to do so?

Beware of those that use the pulpit to proclaim riches and possessions and great prosperity to those that follow Jesus. Some even flaunt their collection of cars, huge houses, and worldly possessions. And many so-called Christians are led astray.

How can a rich man enter the kingdom of heaven? There is much unbiblical teaching these days.

Most lies ride on the back of truth. As weeds among the good plants, they are not easily detected.

Beware of those that claim you will receive a blessing or be healed, if you give money to their ministry.

Most listen to misled ministers, while their Bibles collect dust.

Businessmen will check out people they deal with extensively. Why then don't they check out their church with the Bible???

Some engage in Bible reading plans, rather than just taking their Bible and reading it straight through.

Many might be very smart or savvy in the ways of this world, but very much in the dark when it comes to eternal life only through Jesus Christ and obedience to His Word.

Does a minister reflect Jesus, as he drives hundred-thousand dollar cars and lives in a home fit for kings? How gullible and misled most are, as they are not studying and obeying their Bible as they ought.

All prophets and prophecies must conform to

**Mt 7:16.** Ye shall know (or recognize) them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns (bushes), or figs of (or from) thistles?

Scripture, or they are false.

As has just been covered in **Mt 7:15**, Beware of (or watch out for) false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening (or ferocious) wolves.

**Mt 7:16.** Mt 7:14 spoke of the strait gate and narrow way and that few were saved.

Mt 7:15 told about false prophets or teachers and wolves.

Now, in verse 16, we see the words, **Ye shall know them** (or you can identify them) **by their fruits** (or by what they do, not necessarily by what they say).

In other words, you shall understand if they are of God or not; you shall understand if they are misled or not; you shall understand where they are coming from by their fruits (or actions when compared with God's Word).

What fruits? When we think of fruit, we generally think of apples, oranges, bananas, etc.

A person can know the condition of a tree by the fruit it produces.

Regarding fruit, we may consider how it looks or appeals to us, how it tastes, and perhaps how it may affect us after we eat it. Some fruit may be sweet to the taste, but later make your stomach upset or worse.

As applied to people, there is the fruit of a person's **work**, as well as the fruit of their attitude.

Often the true, inner fruit or **attitude** of a person is revealed, when they are corrected by God's Word regarding sin. Are they hostile and resistant when confronted with the Word, or are they humble and receptive?

Ro 6:21, 22 asks the question: What **fruit** had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death. But now being made free from sin, and **become servants to God**, ye have your **fruit** UNTO

HOLINESS, and the end everlasting life.

The fruits of Jesus Christ are the example for all to follow.

Gal 5:22-23:

But the **fruit of the Spirit is:**

**love**, or affection for others, benevolence or acts of kindness and charity,

**joy**, or exuberance about life, or cheerfulness, or calm delight,

**peace**, or a quiet mind, or serenity,

**longsuffering**, or patience, or a willingness to stick with things, or patience toward others,

**gentleness**, or kindness, or compassion,

**goodness**, or well-doing, or virtue or moral excellence,

**faith**, or faithfulness, or fidelity, or loyal commitments, or assurance, or reliance upon Christ,

V. 23 **Meekness**, or gentle behavior, or humility, or no need to force our way in life,

**temperance**, or self-control, or control over desires, or able to direct our energies wisely, or self-restraint,

against such there is no law.

It is written: Mt 3:8-Bring forth therefore fruits (or evidence) meet for (or in keeping with, or worthy of) repentance. Many profess they are saved, but the evidence or fruit they produce testifies repentance has not taken place, or they have turned back from their repentance.

The verse continues: Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? **Do people pick grapes from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles?**

**Mt 7:17.** Even so every good tree bringeth forth (or bears) good fruit; but a corrupt (or bad) tree bringeth forth evil (or bad) fruit.

**Mt 7:18.** A good tree cannot bring forth (or produce) evil (or bad) fruit, neither can a corrupt (or bad) tree bring forth good fruit.

**Mt 7:19.** Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn (or cut) down, and cast into the fire.

As has just been covered in **Mt 7:16**, Ye shall know (or recognize) them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns (bushes), or figs of (or from) thistles?

**Mt 7:17.** It may be said that: Every good tree, or every person in Jesus Christ, does bring forth good fruit. That fruit is in line with repentance and is in harmony with the fruit of the Spirit of God.

The only good that a repentant person has is what has been given to him through faith in Jesus. That is his righteousness.

A repentant sinner receives the indwelling of the Holy Spirit by faith.

However, a corrupt tree, or a person that has not repented, or their repentance was in word, but not in truth, these continue to bring forth evil fruit, or fruit that is in harmony with sin and the devil.

As has just been covered in **Mt 7:17**, Even so every good tree bringeth forth (or bears) good fruit; but a corrupt (or bad) tree bringeth forth evil (or bad) fruit.

**Mt 7:18.** A good tree, meaning a repentant sinner, cannot or does not bring forth that which is evil or sinful.

Neither can the unrepentant sinner bring forth that which is just and right. The unrepentant cannot bring forth the fruit of the Spirit of God.

As has just been covered in **Mt 7:18**, A good tree cannot bring forth (or produce) evil (or bad) fruit, neither can a corrupt (or bad) tree bring forth good fruit.

**Mt 7:19.** Every tree or every person that does not bring forth good fruit (or good works), or their life and works does not reflect Jesus, or the fruit which is a result of the Spirit of God—

**Mt 7:20.** Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know (or recognize) them.

will be cut down. Life is a test to see if a person will receive Christ as their Lord and Savior, and then follow Him.

Many preach just accept Jesus as their Savior. Repentance and obedience is omitted. The life of the vast majority of so-called Christians reflect this world, not Jesus.

As has just been said **Mt 7:19**, Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn (or cut) down, and cast into the fire.

**Mt 7:20.** By their fruits, (which is by a person's Christlike attitude—especially love, and works for Christ, and obedience to the Gospel, and confession that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh),  
by these, a person can recognize and know if a person is both a follower of Christ and a doer of the Word.

Many profess they know Christ as their Lord and Savior, but their heart is far from Him.

Titus 1:16-They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.

They say they love Jesus, yet they do not devour His Word. Jesus is the Word made flesh.

If you love someone, then you want to hear what they say. You want to spend time with them.

If a person says they love Christ, yet many other things are more needful to them than dwelling in His Word, their love is questionable.

One thing in particular that is a strong indicator of where a professing Christian really is in their



**Mt 7:21.** Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but (only) he that doeth (or does) the will of my Father which is in heaven.

faith, is their reaction to **CORRECTION** from the Word of God.

Correction and change are a way of life for the true Christian. God's Word is constantly correcting and redirecting those that follow Jesus, as it reveals if a person is going in a wrong direction. God's Word working in a person's life (as they surrender themselves) will transform them to be more like Jesus. It transforms them from the old man to the new man. It conforms them to the image of Christ.

Many so-called Christians and all unbelievers, their eternity is the lake of fire and eternal damnation. They cannot be corrected by God's Word to repent and trust in Jesus. They have no faith (which only comes from God's Word.) Their life is themselves, not Jesus.

As has just been covered in **Mt 7:20**, Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know (or recognize) them.

**Mt 7:21.** This verse may be understood in this manner.

Not everyone that calls on the Lord,  
or not everyone that says a sinner's prayer,  
or not everyone that goes to an altar to seek God,  
or not everyone that goes to church,  
or not everyone that tries to serve God in some way,  
or not everyone that is a minister, priest, or rabbi,  
or not everyone that is a Protestant, Catholic, or some other denomination,  
or not everyone that tries to be a good person, will go to heaven.

Also consider Ja 1:22-But be ye **doers of the word** and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

Then Mt 7:21 gives a requirement for obtaining

eternal life. That requirement is, a person **must do the will of God**. The will of God is revealed in His Word.

This is emphasized in this verse and also in much of the Bible.

There is no obtaining eternal life apart from doing the will of God.

A person that believes they have eternal life, but neither hears, or reads, or obeys God's Word is spiritually dead while they live.

Again, the will of God is clearly revealed in the Bible.

In other words, a person that wants to go to heaven **MUST** obey the Bible. It is written, Jesus became the author of eternal salvation to all them that obey him-ref Heb 5:9.

Faith or trust in Jesus Christ, and Jesus Christ only, is also mandatory. However, that mandatory faith can only come through hearing and/or reading God's Word; for it is written: Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God-Ro 10:17. Without faith, it is impossible to please God-ref Heb 11:6.

Faith in anything other than Jesus Christ, Who is come in the flesh, is meaningless.

It all comes down to this—a person that compromises, when it comes to Bible reading, may be committing spiritual suicide.

If a person does not have a deep, unending desire for God's Word, that exceeds even the desire for food, then something is wrong. Only through God's Word (not stories that many preachers tell in their churches) can a person grow spiritually.

If a person is fully persuaded they are saved,

but they do not have a thirst for being in God's Word, then they are deceived, as most are.

Most ministers of the Bible are no longer ministers "of the Bible."

They are not ministers of the pure Word of God.

When it comes to using 50 to 100 or more verses of Scripture on a Sunday morning, it is almost unheard of anymore.

Jesus set the example which few follow. He taught only the Word of God.

The apostles taught the Word.

Today's churches understand that to teach God's Word in the manner that Jesus did can drive people away. This is because it convicts people of sin. Many people today will no longer tolerate sound Bible doctrine, but the Bible says, Preach the Word-2 Tim 4:2.

Regarding the previous statement that only those that do the will of God (which is obeying the Bible) will go to heaven, it is also written: Lk 6:46; Mt 25:11; Lk 13:25 and 1 Jn 2:17-And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and **do not the things which I say?**

After the Rapture happened, some that were positive they would be taken, but were not, came and said, Lord, Lord, open to us, but he answered, and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.

1 Jn 2:17-And the world passeth away and the lust thereof: but he that **doeth the will of God** abideth forever.

How can a person obey God's Word when excuses precede even reading the Word?

As has just been said in **Mt 7:21**, Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but (only) he that

**Mt 7:22.** 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 (or demons)? and in thy name done many wonderful works (or miracles)?

doeth (or does) the will of my Father which is in heaven.

**Mt 7:22.** The foundation for verse 22 was set in verse 19, concerning a Christian's **fruits**, and then in verse 21, concerning only those professing Christians that do God's will, or **obey the Bible**, will enter heaven.

The first word of Mt 7:22 is **Many**. It is saying that a huge number of people, even the vast majority that think they are going to heaven, will not go there.

The verse is also addressing what appears to be **born again Christians**, as was verse 21.

The verse states that **many** will say to Jesus in that day. They are not talking to Jesus, face to face, but in prayer, or as some Christians do, they may be just walking around in private talking to Jesus.

**Many** will say to Jesus **in that day**. Which day? "That day" is not identified. However, these three words are used denoting the latter days, which is the time period after Israel's rebirth. This is the same time period in which the Rapture will occur.

Some believe it may be the day after the Rapture, when many that were positive they would be taken, will be left behind.

Many will begin to justify themselves to prove they are saved and should have been raptured.

They will say **Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name?** Their belief is that they had to be saved in order to prophesy in the name of the Lord.

Next, they will say: **and in thy name have cast out devils?** Note, IT IS NOT POSSIBLE to cast out devils without the indwelling of the

**Mt 7:23.** And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye (evil doers) that work iniquity (or practice lawlessness).

Holy Spirit-ref Acts 19:15. This appears to be evidence that some of these many people were saved.

Next, these people will say: **and in thy name done many wonderful works?** Three things are said here.

Jesus never disputes that these many Christians did these things.

There are some that would argue that these people could not have been saved, because they believe that once a person is saved, they have eternal security, no matter what they may do after repentance.

As has just been said in **Mt 7:22**, 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 (or demons)? and in thy name done many wonderful works (or miracles)?

**Mt 7:23.** But then Jesus makes it clear they are not saved, because they worked iniquity, or practiced sin, or would not do His will, or would not obey the Bible. Note, it is Jesus that denies them. Jesus is the Judge. The Bible is His Word.

To ignore God's Word is to love death.

One might ask, How can this be?

Suffice to say, the Bible does teach that a person can be saved through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ. When they are, all their sins are gone forever and shall never be remembered.

However, if they lose their faith (a person stands only by faith), and they go back into the practice of intentional, willful sin and rebellion against God and His Word—they shall perish. All the righteousness (or good works for Jesus)

that they have done shall be erased, just as all their sins were erased when they came to Jesus in repentance and faith.

Yet, they can again repent and return to following Jesus through faith. Then, all their sins that they had done after falling, shall be blotted out and forgiven.

Both the Old and New Testament teach this message clearly, for those that have ears to hear and eyes to see. Regretfully, many are taught to believe that once a person is saved, they can never perish, no matter how much evil they commit. Nothing can make a person turn from God, but a person can choose to do so.

A person can be saved during the Tribulation and suffer great persecutions for Christ, but if they take the mark and worship the image of the Antichrist, they shall surely perish. They can lose their salvation, and the Scriptures reveal many will.

Note Ezek 3:17-21. Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me.

When I say unto the **wicked**, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity (or he shall perish); but his blood will I require at thine hand.

Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul.

**Again**, When a **righteous man doth turn from his righteousness, and commit iniquity, and I lay a stumblingblock before him, he shall die**: because thou hast not given him

warning, he shall die in his sin (or he shall perish), and his **righteousness which he hath done shall not be remembered**; but his blood will I require at thine hand.

Nevertheless if thou warn the righteous man, that the righteous sin not, and he doth not sin, he shall surely live, because he is warned; also thou hast delivered thy soul.

The importance of this message is such that God presents it three times.

Ezek 18:21-29. But if the wicked will turn from all his sins that he hath committed (or repents), and keep all my statutes, and do that which is lawful and right, he shall surely live, he shall not die.

All his transgressions that he hath committed, they shall not be mentioned unto him: in his righteousness that he hath done he shall live.

Have I any pleasure at all that the wicked should die? saith the Lord God: and not that he should return from his ways, and live?

But when the **righteous turneth away** from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, and doeth according to all the abominations that the wicked man doeth, shall he live? **All his righteousness that he hath done shall not be mentioned**: in his trespass that he hath trespassed, and in his sin that he hath sinned, in them shall he die.

Yet ye say, The way of the Lord is not equal. Hear now, O house of Israel; **Is not my way equal? are not your ways unequal?**

When a righteous man turneth away from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, and dieth in them; for his iniquity that he hath done shall he die.

Again, when the **wicked man turneth away from his wickedness** that he hath committed (or repents), and doeth that which is lawful and right, he shall save his soul alive.

Because he considereth, and turneth away from all his transgressions that he hath committed, he shall surely live, he shall not die.

Yet saith the house of Israel, The way of the Lord is not equal. O house of Israel, are not my ways equal? are not your ways unequal?

Again, we see a sinful person can repent and become righteous through God's mercy, but the same person can turn back to his sin and perish.

Ezek 33:17-20. Now, for a third time, the same message is presented.

Yet the children of thy people say, The way of the Lord is not equal: **but as for them, their way is not equal.** (People that believe a person has eternal security after repenting, even though they return to their wickedness, God declares their way is not equal.)

When the righteous turneth from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, he shall even die thereby.

But if the wicked turn from his wickedness, and do that which is lawful and right, he shall live thereby.

Yet ye say, The way of the Lord is not equal. O ye house of Israel, I will judge you every one after his ways.

This is why the Lord can say, He never knew a person that was once saved, but went back into wickedness. They were saved, but they forsook obeying God, thus all their righteousness was erased.



**Mt 7:24.** Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings (or words) of mine, and doeth them, (or puts them into practice)(or acts upon them)  
I will liken (or compare) him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

But, in the same way, when a person repents, they are declared righteous, and all their sins are erased.

God's ways are equal; however, the ways of men are not equal.

The New Testament teaches the same thing. He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.

Ref Mt 13:47-50-Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind: Which, when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down, and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away. So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just, And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

As has just been covered in **Mt 7:23**, And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye (evil doers) that work iniquity (or practice lawlessness).

**Mt 7:24.** (ref Lk 6:47-49). The verse begins with "Therefore." This means that what is about to be said is based on what has just been said.

Jesus is personally telling each person: that is, whoever **hears or reads** the things which He said (in the Bible), and **does them**, Jesus will compare that person with a wise man which built his house on the most solid foundation possible—a rock. The house represents you.

Jesus is telling each and every person to make the foundation of their life, even their very existence, solidly built upon Him and His Word; for He is the Word and that Rock.

To put it bluntly: Repent and get into God's Word and do what it says.

We are reminded we need to fear God.

**Mt 7:25.** And the **rain** descended (or came down),  
and the **floods** came,  
and the **winds** blew,  
and **beat** (or burst) upon that house;  
and (yet) it fell not:  
for it was founded (or had its foundation) upon  
a (or the) rock.

Ps 103:11, 13, 17-For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that **fear him**.

Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that **fear him**.

But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that **fear him**.

As has just been said in **Mt 7:24**, Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings (or words) of mine,

and doeth them, (or puts them into practice)(or acts upon them)

I will liken (or compare) him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

**Mt 7:25.** Then Jesus describes the rains coming down, and the floods rushing, and the winds blowing, and beating heavily on that house. That house is you, and the rains, floods, and winds are Satan's weapons to hinder or stop you from being in God's Word and obeying it. These weapons also try to stop you from conforming to be more like Christ, and to stop you from following and serving God.

As you follow Jesus, you can expect things like heavy **rains or heavy and difficult problems** to suddenly appear to distract you. These try to hinder you from immersing yourself in God's Word and hinder you from doing God's Word. They can get your mind off Jesus and His calling upon your life.

Note these things that Satan brings forth against you, which includes thoughts contrary to God's Word, these don't just come. They come and BEAT upon you. Satan's attacks have one purpose: that is, to deceive you by all means possible. There will come times when there seems like there is no way out. He creates

situations and puts thoughts into your head, so much so, that only those grounded in God's Word do not fall. However, Satan is not allowed to tempt you beyond what you are able to endure. Thus, anyone that falls and turns away from God has no excuse. Absolutely, none. Your heart determines if you will continue to follow God's Word or not.

Some in the near future will be faced with being executed by having their head chopped off. They can deny Jesus and take the mark or number 666, and their life can go on for about 3 1/2 years. If a person turns from Jesus now with little temptations, they would also certainly take the mark under heavy torture and death. Few Christians today have enough faith to endure such torture. They can be expected to fall.

The answer to having the faith needed to endure is God's Word. Quit making excuses and read and listen to God's Word. A bunch of stories from a preacher sounds nice to some, but they do not increase your faith any at all.

As you follow Jesus, **floods** of situations and problems will appear out of nowhere, and for what appears to be for no reason. These floods can knock you over and carry you away. As you struggle to swim upstream, you are being carried away downstream. The floods bring all sorts of debris with them. They push you one way and then another. The more you try to follow Jesus, the more heavy the floods and obstacles seem to become. The more you try to read your Bible and serve Jesus, the more pressure is exerted to try and stop you.

These floods can come in the form of persecutions, false accusations, and even jail for things you know nothing about. You might be beaten, as you try to let people know about Jesus and His love. You might be falsely accused, as you try to tell people to fear the

Lord and depart from evil.

You might have your house and possessions seized or vandalized.

As you follow Jesus, hurricanes, tornadoes, and every kind of **wind** storm (or the cares of this life, the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of all sorts of things, and the pleasures of this life) appear to hinder you. They tempt you to turn from following Jesus, serving Jesus, and reading His Word. They may tempt you to deal with all sorts of situations that suddenly arise, thereby causing you not to be in God's Word as you should be.

Many, many, many teachers and preachers of the Bible talk, and talk, and talk; and the people love to have it so, and they give their money. But when the temptations come, they are like a tree that has not been watered. They dry up and die. God's Word is the water of life.

Do you like fellowshiping with the brethren more than you like studying God's Word? Is there anything you like more than being in God's Word? You may be in trouble when heavy temptations come and fall, as Satan can use these things to hinder your growth.

Storms come upon all that confess, and profess, and obey Jesus. Life is a test to see if a person will receive Jesus as their only hope of salvation. Then it is a test to see if they will deny themselves and pick up their cross and follow Him, no matter what storms lie ahead, even **dying** for Jesus. Few professing Christians today could pass that test.

During the soon coming Tribulation, that test will come. As has been said, many will choose life over torture and death. They will deny Christ and worship the image in order to escape torture and death.

**Mt 7:26.** And every one that heareth these sayings (or words) of mine, and doeth them not, (or does not put them into practice) shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the **sand**:

As has just been said in **Mt 7:25**. And the **rain** descended (or came down), and the **floods** came, and the **winds** blew, and **beat** (or burst) upon that house; and (yet) it fell not: for it was founded (or had its foundation) upon a (or the) rock.

**Mt 7:26.** This verse is referring to those that have heard or read the words of Jesus, which is the Bible.

This house represents all people that have heard God's Word, but do not obey it. These are like very foolish people, because the foundation they built their house, or built their life upon is a foundation of sand. They are foolish, because their life is not centered on Jesus, Who is the Word and Who is the Rock.

Those people that think they are going to hear God's Word in most churches are very misled. There is a void of God's Word in today's churches. There may be no more than 1 in 10,000 churches in which a person could hear the **whole** Bible even once in their lifetime.

It should be the responsibility and the desire of the born again Christian to read their own Bible daily. They should certainly go through the entire Bible one or more times a year.

What is your life built upon? Is it the Rock, which is God's Word, or is it the sand, which represents any and everything else?

Doctrines that lead people to believe that they can say a sinner's prayer, but then continue to practice sin and not repent, are wrong. Some believe that just associating with a certain church insures they will not go to the lake of fire. How foolish people are. Satan puts in the hearts of people all sorts of reasons to let their Bibles collect dust. Such perish as God's Word

**Mt 7:27.** And the rain descended (or came down), and the floods came (or streams rose), and the winds blew, and beat upon (or against) that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it (or it fell with a great crash).

(which is Jesus) is not their life.

As has just been said in **Mt 7:26**. And every one that heareth these sayings (or words) of mine, and doeth them not, (or does not put them into practice) shall be likened unto a foolish man, **which built his house upon the sand:**

**Mt 7:27.** As revealed in verse 26, the foolish person that hears God's Word, but does not obey it, is a person that will perish for eternity.

As they hear God's Word and perhaps seek to obey it, all sorts of obstacles, problems, persecutions, distractions, unbiblical personal desires, and hindrances get in their way. These are called the rains, the floods, and the winds. Each has its own meaning.

These will **weigh** a Christian down. These will **beat** upon the Christian. These will **distract** the Christian.

The Christian whose life is built upon obeying God's Word will stand firm; however, in verse 27, the Christian that does not stand firm by faith and obey God's Word—will fall and perish.

As already stated, Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

The bottom line is this. Those that inherit eternal life do hear, or read God's Word and do obey it, even to the point of death. They can do this, as they have already died to themselves. Those that perish have not. Acquiring many worldly possessions is contrary to God's Word to deny oneself. Today's church seldom teaches this. They might lose some of their members, and the money coming in might be decreased.

Faith is not built upon works. Works is built upon faith, and faith can only come from

**Mt 7:28.** And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings (or words), the people were astonished (or amazed) at his doctrine (or teaching):

hearing and reading God's Word.

Is it any wonder that Christians in this age are mostly without faith. They might go to church and hear great stories, but not God's Word. Neither do they hear from the pulpits to read and study their Bibles faithfully. They might be entertained, but where is God's Word? And if God's Word is taught, do they ever hear about Satan, the lake of fire, the judgments, sin, repentance, or even the soon coming Tribulation and the Rapture?

**True faith results in a changed life.**

Where no changed life exists, faith also does not exist.

Needless to say, this lukewarm, wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked church generation will perish, unless they repent.

As has just been said in **Mt 7:27**. And the rain descended (or came down), and the floods came (or streams rose), and the winds blew, and beat upon (or against) that house; and it fell:

and great was the fall of it (or it fell with a great crash).

**Mt 7:28.** The words of Jesus were drastically different than what the religious leaders taught. The people were astonished at what they heard. No one had ever preached the way He did.

If Jesus would stand up in most churches today and preach as He did then, nearly all churches would throw Him out.

What is preached today is a watered-down Gospel. It is a Gospel that is wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked. It is a Gospel that produces Christians that are comfortable and biblically asleep, which do not know or understand their true spiritual condition.

**Mt 7:29.** For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes (or teachers of the law).

The day is coming when they will be left behind in the Rapture and will hear words like: "I KNOW YOU NOT."

As has just been said in **Mt 7:28**. And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings (or words), the people were astonished (or amazed) at his doctrine (or teaching):

**Mt 7:29.** The people were astonished at what Jesus taught, because He taught with the authority of God, His Father. He did not teach as the scribes did. These taught by tradition, or they passed on what others had said. They had their own traditions. They had hundreds of their own laws.

Jesus had the power of the Holy Spirit, which lighted upon Him when He came up out of the water after being baptized by John.

Jesus backed up what He taught by mighty works and miracles, which no man had ever done.

Many of today's preachers also teach as the scribes did. They do not teach in a manner that might cause people to examine themselves by God's Word to see if they are in the faith. They do not teach the word of correction. Some are careful not to offend anyone. The Word of God does indeed offend many, especially the unrepentant.

The nice, "offend no one" type of teaching, of many modern-day teachers, saves no one, but only gives those that hear it a false sense of security. That security is destroyed at the Judgment, but it is too late.

As has just been said in **Mt 7:29**. For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes (or teachers of the law).



If you have now read all the commentary for the previous chapter, consider returning to the beginning of the chapter and read just the verses again. Each verse should now have much more meaning to you.



[Click here for Mt. Chapter 8](#)

