

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Matthew 8:10-12.**
- B. Many people who should be on the right hand of Jesus on the Day of Judgment will be on His left. They will be numbered with the goats instead of the sheep.
- C. The J.B. Philips translation says of Mt. 8:12, "and those who should have belonged to the kingdom..."
- D. By man's wisdom there are some who should be in the kingdom, but the Bible tells us otherwise.

I. THE JEWS SHOULD BE... MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH.

- A. Matthew 15:24 says that Christ was sent to only the lost sheep of Israel.
But He answered and said, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."
- B. Jesus' parables were for the Jews and many times all about them (see Mt. 22:1-10; 21:33-43).
- C. Even after the church was established the gospel was for the Jew first (Rom. 1:16).
For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.
- D. Jesus did mighty works, but even publicans and harlots were to enter the kingdom before the Jews (Mt. 21:31-32).
"Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The latter." Jesus said to them, "Truly I say to you that the tax-gatherers and harlots will get into the kingdom of God before you. 32 "For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him; but the tax-gatherers and harlots did believe him; and you, seeing this, did not even feel remorse afterward so as to believe him."
- E. Unfortunately, the story is as simple as stated in Jn. 1:11, "He came unto His own, and His own received Him not."

II. THOSE WHO HAVE BIBLES SHOULD BE...

- A. We have today many translations of the NT available for a very nominal cost.
- B. Since the Bible is clear as to what a person must do to be saved, we are without excuse if we reject X and His church.
- C. Ignorance of God's word is not bliss (Ac. 17:30).
"Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all everywhere should repent,"
- D. We should be noble minded like in Berea (Ac. 17:11).
Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily, to see whether these things were so.
- E. God rewards those who seek after Him (see Heb. 11:6), therefore we should ask, seek, and knock (Mt. 7:7-8).
"Ask, and it shall be given to you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened to you. 8 "For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it shall be opened."

III. THOSE WHO HAVE HEARD THE GOSPEL PREACHED SHOULD BE...

- A. Many people have not heard the gospel and therefore cannot respond to it.
- B. There are many people tonight who have heard the gospel and need to respond to it.
- C. People hear the gospel with a preacher (Rom. 10:14).
How then shall they call upon Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?

IV. THOSE REARED IN XIAN HOMES SHOULD BE...

- A. God does not have any grandchildren. Teens, you need to obey the gospel.
- B. Your parents are only commanded to preach the word, in raising you; YOU must respond to it.
- C. Jesus did not have the religion of His parents because He fulfilled it and gave us a new one.

V. **THOSE WHO ONLY ATTEND ONLY THE WORSHIP SERVICES SHOULD BE...**

- A. Some people attend worship on Sunday morning, but never take their commitment to X any farther than that. Sitting in a church building no more make you a Xian, than sitting in a chicken coop makes you a chicken.
- B. Commitment is defined as obeying, daily the words of X (Mt. 7:21; Lk. 9:23; Jn. 15:14).
(Mt 7:21) "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven."
(Lk 9:23) And He was saying to them all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me."
(Jn 15:14) "You are My friends, if you do what I command you."
- C. Bible-study is essential to growth and commitment (2Tim. 2:15).
Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth.
- D. Those who limit their spiritual lives to the worship service are unworthy servants (Lk. 17:10).
"So you too, when you do all the things which are commanded you, say, 'We are unworthy slaves; we have done only that which we ought to have done.'"

VI. **THOSE WHO HAVE FALLEN AWAY SHOULD BE...**

- A. Of course, I mean faithful members of the church.
- B. One of scariest scriptures in all the Bible is directed to Xians in 2Pet. 2:20-22.
For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world by the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and are overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. **21** For it would be better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn away from the holy commandment handed on to them. **22** It has happened to them according to the true proverb, "A DOG RETURNS TO ITS OWN VOMIT," and, "A sow, after washing, returns to wallowing in the mire."
- C. These people have crucified Jesus afresh, and cannot be won back to X (Heb. 6:4-6).
For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, **5** and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, **6** and then have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God, and put Him to open shame.
- D. When a person is restored, it saves their soul from death (Jas. 2:20).
But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works is useless?

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Everyone should and can be a member of the church of Christ.
- B. The means by which one becomes a member of this church is available.
- C. Therefore, the decision to become a member of the kingdom (a Christian) is up to you.
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring-Xians.