

Why Few Will Be Saved

- I. Introduction: (**Luke 13:23-24**) “Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved? And he said unto them, **Strive** to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.”
 - a. Ought to have a sobering effect to us to realize that only a few will be saved!
 - b. Reminds us of the time on Noah
 - i. Only a few were saved compared to the whole population
 1. (**1 Peter 3:20**) “Wherein **few**, that is, **eight** souls were saved by water.”
 - c. Modern religion has made light of the statements of Jesus in regards to salvation.
 - i. Mankind didn’t like to hear it then, and they don’t like it now!
 - ii. Jesus said, “Strive!”
 1. Strive – “**αγωνιζομαι**” – “To struggle, literally (to compete for a prize), figuratively (to contend with an adversary), or genitive case (to endeavor to accomplish something)”
 - a. Base word “**αγων**” in which came the Greek word “**αγωνια**” in which we get the English word “agony”!
 - d. (**Matt 7:13-14**) “Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and **few** there be that **find it**.”
 - i. What is it that few will be saved?
- II. Because they do not think they are lost
 - a. They see themselves in a safe relationship with God
 - b. Many in the Jewish nation had this delusion
 - i. (**Matt 3:9**) “And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.”
 - ii. Jesus refutes this false assurance
 1. (**John 8:39**) “They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham.”
 - c. False assurance by our feelings
 - i. (**Prov 14:12**) “There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.”
 - ii. Paul thought he was doing right in persecuting the church
 1. (**Acts 26:9-11**) “I verily thought with myself, that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. Which thing I also did in Jerusalem: and many of the saints did I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to

death, I gave my voice against them. And I punished them oft in every synagogue, and compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly mad against them, I persecuted them even unto strange cities.”

a. He had a clear conscience – He knew he was right deep in his heart!

i. **(Acts 23:1)** “And Paul, earnestly beholding the council, said, Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day.”

2. Paul did so ignorantly and in unbelief of God’s Word

a. **(1 John 2:3)** “And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.”

d. Assurance comes by God’s Word

i. **(1 John 2:3)** “And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.”

ii. How do you know that you are saved?

1. Example:

a. **(Mark 16:16)** “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved.”

i. Saved = forgiveness of past sins - Pardon

ii. Executive act.

1. Pardon can be known only as God declares it.

iii. Imagine a prisoner coming up to the warden and demanding to be released on the grounds that he has been pardoned. The warden would ask, “How do you know that you have been pardoned?” The prisoner then pats himself on his heart and say, “I know that I’m pardon!” That would not work! It must be declared by the Governor.

b. There must be a standard for all such. And God has a law of forgiveness--the sinner is not pardoned until he has complied with it.

III. Because they do not believe

a. **(Luke 8:12)** “Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.”

b. There is no hope for the one that will not believe

i. **(Mark 16:16)** “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”

ii. **(Heb 11:6)** “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.”

- iii. **(John 8:24)** “I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.”
- IV. Because they are trusting in a faith without works of obedience
 - a. **(James 2:24-26)** “Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only. Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way? For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.”
 - i. Faith must be accompanied by obedience to that faith
 - b. Noah was saved by faith – but not faith only!
 - i. **(Heb 11:7)** “**By faith** Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became **heir** of the **righteousness** which is **by faith**.”
 - c. Obedience is Essential to our Salvation
 - i. **(Matt 7:21)** “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.”
 - 1. “Lord, Lord” – evidence of faith, even faith that God can save – Must be accompanied by obedience
 - ii. **(Heb 5:8-9)** “Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, He became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that **obey him**”
- V. Because they rely and trust on morality alone
 - a. Morality can be motivated by many reasons.
 - i. Religion
 - ii. Civil
 - iii. Own Standards
 - b. Cornelius, a very moral men, needed more than just morals
 - i. Religiously Moral
 - 1. **(Acts 10:2)** “A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God alway.”
 - ii. Still was not saved! – Had to hear words from Peter
 - 1. **(Acts 11:13-14)** “And he shewed us how he had seen an angel in his house, which stood and said unto him, Send men to Joppa, and call for Simon, whose surname is Peter; Who shall tell thee words, whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved.”
 - c. If morality saved, man could be saved apart from:
 - i. Christ
 - 1. **(Matt 1:21)** “And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall **save** his people from their sins.”
 - ii. Christ’s Blood

1. (**Eph 1:7**) “In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace.”
 - iii. Faith
 1. (**Heb 11:6**) – Impossible to Please God!
 - iv. Obedience
 1. (**Heb 5:9**) – Author of Eternal Salvation to those that Obey Him!
 - v. Christ’s Church
 1. (**Eph 5:23**) “...He is the saviour of the body.”
- VI. Because they love sin
- a. (**John 3:19-21**) “And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.”
 - b. (**2 Tim 3:1-5**) “This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.”
 - i. Last days – gospel dispensation – proof = “from such turn away” – Speaking to Timothy
 - ii. “Having a form of godliness” – outward appearance and profession
 - iii. “Denying the power thereof” – by their actions they deny this godliness!
 - c. (**1 John 2:15-16**) “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.”
 - i. The love of the world is incompatible with the love of God
 1. Jesus says, “No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.” (**Matt 6:24**)
 2. James says, “Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.” (**James 4:4**)
 3. Which will you choose?
 - a. (**Vs. 17**) “And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.”

- d. Paul's Exhortation
 - i. **(Rom 12:2)** "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."
 - 1. Transformed = Transfigured (change) **(Matt 17:2)** **(Mark 9:2)**
 - 2. **(1 Peter 1:14-15)** "...As obedient children, not **fashioning** yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: But as **He** which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation"
 - a. Fashion ourselves as 'He' – Jesus Christ
 - b. Conversation = Living
 - ii. This change is the duty of the Christian – Doesn't happen overnight
 - 1. **(2 Cor 4:16)** "...but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day."
 - iii. Change is brought about by the renewing of your mind
 - 1. Change ones thought and you change ones actions
 - a. **(Matt 15:18)** "But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man."
 - 2. Renew you mind day by day – Fill your mind with the word of God

- VII. Because they have believed a lie
 - a. **(1 John 4:1)** "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world."
 - i. Zeal and dedication is not proof of correctness
 - 1. **(Rom 10:2)** "For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge."
 - b. We have been warned about false doctrines
 - i. **(Matt 7:15)** "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves."
 - ii. **(Rom 16:18)** "For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple."
 - iii. **(2 Peter 2:1-2)** "But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the **way of truth shall be evil spoken of.**"
 - 1. They call that which is evil good and that which is good evil!
 - 2. **(Isa 5:20)** "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!"

- c. Be as those in Berea
 - i. (**Acts 17:11**) “These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.”
 - ii. (**2 Tim 2:15**) “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

VIII. Because of Neglect

- a. (**Heb 2:3-4**) “How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?”
- b. Do not be as Felix (**Acts 24:25**) “Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee.”
- c. Today is the day of Salvation
 - i. (**Heb 3:15**) “To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.”
 - ii. (**2 Cor 6:2**) “Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.”