



## Don't Make These 3 Mistakes With Your Salvation (08/13/13) Biblical Discussion



### Mistake #1 – Believing you're saved because of your tradition

"Jesus said to them, 'If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word. You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires.'" – **John 8:42-44**

1) Notice that Jesus says "you". Not your parents, or friends or your church but "you". No one can have a relationship on our behalf. You alone must put your trust in Him to be saved. 2) Notice that Jesus says "me". It's not where you were born, or what church you attend that makes you a child of God. It's a belief and a trust that Christ came from the Father to pay for your sins (John 3:16). John 1:12 tells us that "all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God."

### Mistake #2 – Believing you're saved because of your behavior

Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.' "But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.' "I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.'" - Luke 18:10-14

Notice two things:

- 1) Notice that the Pharisee compared his behavior to the tax collector.
- 2) Notice that the tax collector compared his behavior to God.

The tax collector did the right thing because **Romans 3:23** tells us that "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." It's "the glory of God" that we fall short of. Our behavior is compared to God — not other people — and all of us fall short when held to this standard. But **Romans 3:24** tells us that we can be saved because we're "justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus."

### Mistake #3 – Believing you're saved because of your works or deeds

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'" – **Matthew 7:21-23**

Jesus says that only those who do the will of His Father will enter the kingdom. What is His will? "He commands all people everywhere to repent." (Acts 17:30) What does it mean to repent? It means to turn from sin, to Christ.

### How are we saved? (Exodus 20:3-17)

In this study we've looked at people who mistakenly thought they were saved because of their tradition, behavior or good works. Each example had one thing in common: Each tried to obtain salvation through their own strength and fell short. God gives us salvation through His Son. Our salvation isn't based on what we've done, it's based on what Christ has done. We know we're saved when we know we trust in Christ completely for our salvation.

#### Verses to remember

- "By grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast." (**Eph 2:8**)

- "This is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life." (**1 John 5:11-13**)

- He is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them. (**Heb 7:25**)