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The Saddest Words

By Harold Turner

In Matt. 7:21-23, Jesus said, "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. 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? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

Without exception these will be the saddest words to ever fall upon human ears. To those who hear these words, they will surely ring in their ears throughout the endless ages of eternity. They are words of rejection and condemnation to eternal punishment from the presence of God.

One of the saddest things about these words is when we consider the people to whom they are addressed. They are addressed to people who have worked and lived in anticipation of living eternally with God. They are spoken to people that we would consider as sincere, morally good, and religious.

The one thing that should be of most concern to each of us as we read these words, is why were people of this character rejected by the Lord? If we fail to understand why these were rejected, we may find ourselves among this group when we face the Lord in judgment. From these words of Jesus we can learn both things that were not the reason as well as the specific reason they were rejected.

They were not rejected because of disbelief in the Lord, for they claimed to have both preached and worked in his name. We recognize that all who refuse to believe in Jesus will be lost. Jesus said, "For if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins" (John 8:24). He also stated in John 8:21 that if we die in our sins, where he is we cannot come. The unbeliever has no hope of enjoying the bliss of eternal life. But Matt. 7:21-23 stresses that there is more to salvation than sincere belief. In 1 Cor. 15:2 Paul states that it is possible to have believed in vain. In James 2:14 the question is asked, "What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have

not works? can faith save him?" The answer is given, "Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone." For faith to save us, it must be an active working faith that is directed by the word of God (Rom. 10:17).

Next, we might notice that these in Matt. 7:21-23 were not lost because they were wicked and immoral. They obviously hated sin and the works of Satan, for they said, "have we not in thy name cast out devils?" We recognize that those who indulge in the works of the flesh (Gal. 5:19-21, Rom. 1:29-32) will have no hope of eternal life, but these were not of this kind.

Next, we might notice that they were not rejected because they were selfish and unconcerned about others. They said, "have we not in thy name done many wonderful works?" They were probably very generous and benevolent toward the poor and needy, and they did these things, not in their own name, for their own glory, but in the name of the Lord. Good works are essential to the Christian life, but good works within themselves will not save any person. If any relies on their own goodness for salvation they will be as disappointed as these at the judgment.

One other thing we might notice that was not the reason for their being rejected. They were not a non-evangelistic people. They prophesied in the name of the Lord. They obviously wanted others to know about the Lord. Yet, Jesus said to these, "I never knew you, depart from me."

Why were these sincere, morally good, religious people rejected at the judgment? Jesus said, "I never knew you." They had never become a child of God. Yes, they believed in him, they hated sin, they told others about the Lord, they did many wonderful works, but they had never become a child of God. Those who believe that one is saved by faith only needs to ponder these words of Jesus very carefully. Those who believe that all we have to do is be sincere about what we believe needs to give careful attention to these words. Jesus said to enter the kingdom of heaven we "must do the will of my Father which is in heaven" This

(Continued on Page 2)

The Devil's Disciples In the Lord's House

By Ted Knight

It may be hard for some of us to believe that there are actually disciples of the devil in the house of the Lord. But, there are. In fact these disciples of the devil who are in the Lord's house present the church with its greatest enemy. The most potent weapon the devil has in his force is this one who has infiltrated the army of the Lord.

Who are these disciples of the devil who are in the Lord's house? They are those who live half-hearted lives for the Lord; those who are not involved in the work of the church; those who do not care about the lost condition of the millions who are aliens; those who do not let their light shine for the glory of God; those who will not take a firm stand for the truth of God but are double minded individuals; those who would compromise truth in order to gain the friendship of other religious people; those who have failed to deny themselves and take up a cross to follow Jesus; those who attempt to be friends to the world and friends to God at the same time; those who cause factions and division in the Lord's Body; those who live immoral and ungodly lives but profess to be a Christian; those who talk about Christianity but never put their talk into action.

Brethren, it is time for us to begin taking our Christianity seriously. It is time for us to do something about the enemy in the Lord's camp. I am not afraid of the enemies outside the church because I know that the truth of God will prevail. I am concerned with the enemies among us because they hold back the church and keep it from growing as it should. I believe that when we clean up our own house the world will see a marked difference in us and will desire to obey the Lord. But, if when they look at us today they see no difference in what they are and what we are, what hope do they have? It is time for judgment to begin in the Lord's house and the ungodly church member be made to feel so uncomfortable that he will do something about his life. Let's determine to do something about the devil's disciples in the Lord's house.

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"Life is like a cafeteria; One goes through choosing as he goes-but what he chooses must be paid for at the end of the line. Choose wisely and carefully: No refunds, no exchanges."

"I go to every service of the church because I am made stronger. Power is given in worship to live a nobler life. There, one is fortified against falling away. There, is the sweetest fellowship on earth. There, souls are made fit for heaven. There, strength is given to bear the burdens of life. Why should I want to miss ANY service?"

"Church attendance is determined more by deisre than distance."

"If you cannot see the bright side, then try polishing up the dull side."

"Trouble is usually produced by those who don't produce anything else."

"God calls men when they are busy, and Satan calls them when they are idle."

The Saddest Words (Cont.)

stresses a need to know God's will. One may be sincere in religion and be wrong, as Matt. 7:21-23 clearly shows.

Why had Jesus never known these people? They believed on him, which is essential to salvation John 8:24. They had obviously repented of their sins, which is essential to salvation Acts 17:30. They had obviously confessed Christ as Lord, which is essential to salvation Rom. 10:9-10. What lacked they yet? Jesus said, "I never knew you." In John 10:14 Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine." In 2 Tim. 2:19 Paul said, "Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his." One thing sure, the Lord doesn't forget who his children are, he knows each of them. Yet he did not, nor had never known these in Matt. 7:22. Why? There is one command of the Lord for salvation that most of our religious world rejects as an essential prerequisite to salvation. In Mark 16:16 Jesus said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." In Acts 2:38, Guided by the Holy Spirit, Peter said, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins..." In Acts 22:16, Ananias told Saul, who had been fasting and praying for three days, to "arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord." Baptism is the only act of obedience that is said to put us into Christ. Notice in Romans 6:3, "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?" Also notice in Gal. 3:26-27, "For we are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ."

Why were the people rejected in Matt. 7:21-23? Why did Jesus say, "I never knew you." Obviously they had never been baptized into Christ where they would be recognized as a child of God. We are children of God in Christ, and we are baptized into Christ. These had never been known by Christ as one of his children.

There is only one way to be saved, and that is through obeying the will of God. It doesn't make any difference how sincerely one may believe, it doesn't make any difference how dedicated to doing good works one may be, unless he does the will of God, he will hear the saddest words that will ever fall upon his ears, "I never knew you, depart from me."

"He that never changes his opinions nor corrects his mistakes will never be wiser or better."

The Work of Christian Youth

By Tressie Clift Davis

The young people were preparing to do some personal work, as they had been taught in their Bible classes, for their gospel meeting that was to begin the following week. Mike, Debby, and Ruth were in one group. They took Bibles, tracts, and gospel papers to give to others. They drove out into the farm lands to contact and visit with the people, and after some reading from the Bible, and answering many questions, these citizens agreed to attend the meeting.

"What must we do to be saved?" Johnny asked them. "You must hear the Bible taught enough to believe that it is true. And you must believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and make this confession publicly. Here, let us read it from the Bible. In John 6:45, Jesus said that "they shall all be taught of God", and stressed that only those who have heard and learned can come to him. Then in John 20:21 we learn that "these things are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God." In Romans 10:17 the apostle Paul stated, "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." In Acts 8:37 after hearing about Jesus the man wanted to be baptized, and asked, "what doth hinder me to be baptized?" The preacher said, "If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." Then the Bible teaches us that we must repent of our sins and be baptized for the remission of them. In Luke 13:3 Jesus said, "except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." In Acts 17:30 we learn that God "commandeth all men every where to repent." In Acts 2:37-38 when these heard about Christ they asked the question, "what shall we do?" "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." Do you notice why they were to be baptized? In each example of conversion in the New Testament this is the pattern for what we must do to be saved. In Romans 6:3 and Gal. 3:27 we learn that we are baptized into Christ where we may enjoy all spiritual blessings."

When the meeting began, fifteen of the young people drove in different directions and brought many people to the meeting. And after hearing the Bible taught so plainly in the sermons, eighteen were baptized and a few were restored. These young Christians were really happy, for they knew that this was partly due to their work.

The Dignity of Being a Woman

By James Knight

In recent years there has been a great deal of talk about women's liberation. There are some women, it seems, who are ashamed of the fact that they were born of the female sex. There is evidence that this is being carried over into the church. Recently I have read a number of articles from women in the church who feel that women have been discriminated against in the body of Christ.

I want to make it clear in the beginning that I believe in women being liberated as long as it does not bring them into violation of God's law concerning the relationship of the man and woman. Let us learn what the Bible teaches in this regard.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Some time after this, God set about to make the earth habitable for man. When God had made the vegetable and animal kingdoms, He then made man. The Bible declares that man was made from the dust of the ground, and that God breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul (Gen. 2:7.) Soon after God had made man, He began to look for a companion for the man whom he had made, and finding none among all the creatures, He put man into a deep sleep and took a rib from his side. Woman was made from that rib. When God brought her to the man, he said, "She is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called woman, because she was taken out of man. (Gen. 2:23.) Thus we have the record of the creation of man and woman.

I believe, from the teaching of the Bible, that man and woman stood side by side immediately after the creation. I do not see any evidence that one was over the other in any way. However, after the sin in the garden, God told the woman that her desire would be to her husband, and that he would rule over her. (Gen. 3:16.) In the New Testament, Paul makes a reference to this event, saying, "Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence. For Adam was first formed, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression. Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety." (1 Tim. 2:11-15.) Woman lost her original position by being deceived by the serpent in the garden.

The New Testament has a great deal to say about the relationship between the man and woman. This is true especially as

it relates to the husband and wife and the relationship of men and women in the church. Let us notice a number of Scriptures on this relationship.

In Eph. 5:23-25, Paul tells us, "For the husband is the HEAD of the wife, even as Christ is the HEAD of the church; and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is SUBJECT unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it." He further states that men are to love their wives as their own bodies. "He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own body; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church." (Eph. 5:28-29.) In the closing verse of this chapter, Paul makes this statement, "Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband."

In Titus 2:3-5, Paul gives some very explicit instructions to the older women as to what they are to teach the younger women. He said, The aged women likewise, that they be in behavior as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, KEEPERS AT HOME, good, OBEDIENT to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed." (Emphasis by J.K.)

In 1 Cor. 11:3, we have this statement concerning the relationship of woman to the man. "But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God."

In 1 Peter 3:1-8, Peter also gives instruction to Christian women as to their conduct, "Likewise, ye wives be in SUBJECTION to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; while they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear. Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quite spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands; Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord; whose daughters ye are, as long

as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement. Likewise ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honor unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered."

The Bible is very definite in its teaching concerning the relationship between the man and the woman. The man is the HEAD of the wife just as Christ is the HEAD of the church. The woman is to be SUBJECT to the man just as the church is to be SUBJECT to Christ. The husband is to LOVE his wife the same as Christ LOVES the church, and the wife is to REVERENCE her husband. When men and women live together with the teaching of the Bible, peace and harmony will be the result.

The Bible also is plain in its teaching concerning the relationship of men and women in the church. Paul teaches "Let your women keep silence in the churches; for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under OBEDIENCE, as also saith the law. And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home; for it is a shame for women to speak in the church." (1 Cor. 14:34-35.)

The position of authority in the church has been reserved for the men. The qualifications listed for elders and deacons include only men. The command for women to remain silent in the church restricts them from preaching. This is God's pattern for His church.

We began our study by talking about the dignity of being a woman. Let us now show how this is true. The dignity of womanhood should not be disparaged as it is being done today in many circles, but it should be upheld and honored by all who love the Lord and his word.

There is dignity in being a woman. This dignity is not to be found in politics, business, or some other secular field. True dignity and womanhood are to be found, and enjoyed, in fulfilling the role that God has given to woman. What is that role? The Bible teaches that true womanhood is found in being a wife, mother, and homemaker. Whatever else a woman may do in life is subordinate to the foregoing things. If you would be a true woman, then fulfill yourself in carrying out God's wishes as revealed in the Bible.

"Be careful of your thoughts, they may break out in words any moment."

"Christianity is not a creed but a way of life."

Now That School Has Started

By Coy Walters

School has started, and many of our young Christians who spent the summer attending Youth Rallies, Vacation Bible Schools, Meetings, special youth classes, and other activities of the church, are now faced with homework, school activities, and sports. These young Christians spent much of their summer with mostly Christians, and now they must again associate with many who are not, and who do not hold their Christian principles. This poses a problem that may have been absent all summer long. Our youth will be enticed to date many non-Christians, they will be enticed by their classmates to do many things that are not of a Christian nature. Many decisions must then be made. Our Christian youth may find it harder and harder to live a Christian life. They will have pressures placed upon them that they are not accustomed to.

Christianity does not do away with all these problems and decisions that must be made, but it teaches us how to deal with them. This article will attempt to give our young people a Bible answer on how to deal with these pressures that have arisen NOW THAT SCHOOL HAS STARTED.

First, the student must start out with a positive view toward these temptations and with an optimistic attitude to remain faithful to God. James wrote, "Count it all joy when you fall into manifold temptations." (James 1:2.) He continued to say, "Blessed is the man that endureth temptations; for when he hath been approved, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him. (James 1:12.) Think of the decisions that are placed upon you as opportunities to show others your love for God, which will in return make you approved of God. Always remember the promise given by God; "There hath no temptation taken you but such as man can bear: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation make also the way of escape, that ye may be able to endure it" (1 Cor. 10:13.) You can make it, because you have God's help and his blessings when you do.

Second, you must make wise choices in your friends. Have friends who will help you rather than ones who will try to tear you down. Associate with friends who will not be making fun of you when you try to do right, and when you condemn those things that are wrong. You will have pressures from the other students and teachers that will be strong enough without having your closest

friends to make fun of you. Remember what God said, "Be not deceived: Evil companionships corrupt good morals." (1 Cor. 15:33.)

Third, you must pray often. We all must pray if we remain faithful to God. Do you ever wish for the ability to be able to make the right decisions? How many times have we heard, "Oh, if only I knew what to do?" Listen again to what James wrote, "But if any of you lacketh wisdom, let him ask of God, who giveth to all liberally and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him." (James 1:5.) That ability to know what to do is wisdom, and we must ask God for it when we need it. But we must also know how to pray. James also wrote, "But let him ask in faith, nothing doubting; for he that doubteth is like the surge of the sea driven by the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord; a doubleminded man, unstable in all his ways." (James 1:6-7.) If we want God's blessings and his power in our lives to help us make the right decisions, then we must not be doubleminded, but really believe and want to do what is right. This may be a problem with many of the Christian youth.

Fourth, you must remember the consequences of sin. "Every man is tempted when he is drawn away of his own lust, then the lust, when it hath conceived, beareth sin; and the sin, when it is fullgrown, bringeth forth death." (James 1:15.) There is no future in sin, except maybe a little glory from the people who encourage you to do it. Remember the "Prodigal Son" of Luke 15. Flee these lusts as fast as you can. The sooner you make up your mind not to do wrong the easier it is.

The rewards of not letting the un-Christian temptations of school activities, or the pressures of classmates pull your Christianity down, are worth much more than anything this world has to offer. It will cause you to mature and to become what God really wants you to be. "Knowing that the proving of your faith worketh patience. And let patience have its perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, lacking in nothing." (James 1:3-4.) It takes time to develop into the mature Christian that you would like to be. High School days are a delicate period, and you must have patience.

Also, God has promised a "crown of life" to them that love him James 1:12. There are many "crowns" that this world has to offer, but they do not compare with the crown that God offers to them

Children Learn What They Live

Dorothy Law Holte

- If a child lives with criticism,
He learns to condemn.
- If a child lives with hostility,
He learns to fight.
- If a child lives with ridicule,
He learns to be shy.
- If a child lives with shame,
He learns to feel guilty.
- If a child lives with tolerance,
He learns to be patient.
- If a child lives with encouragement,
He learns confidence.
- If a child lives with praise,
He learns to appreciate.
- If a child lives with fairness,
He learns justice.
- If a child lives with approval,
He learns to like himself.
- If a child lives with acceptance and friendship,
He learns to find love in the world.

who prove their love for him. In your efforts to defeat temptations, you'll help others not to lose sight of the real reward of life.

(Footnote. some of these ideas were taken from "What Christian Living is All About", Studies in James, by Rubel Shelly.)

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