

BEING RECONCILED TO GOD

And He [Jesus] went through the cities and villages, teaching, and journeying toward Jerusalem. Then one said to Him, "Lord, are there few who are saved?"

And He said to them, "Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able. When once the Master of the house has risen up and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock at the door, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open for us,' and He will answer and say to you, 'I do not know you, where you are from,' then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets.' But He will say, 'I tell you I do not know you, where you are from. Depart from Me, all you workers of iniquity.' There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and yourselves thrust out." [Luke 13:22-28 (NKJV)]

I want to state up front that this is not a message to beat up on those who are the children of God. You may be thinking, "you're preaching to the choir brother, we need to be encouraged and uplifted, not beat down by another message stirring up fear and doubt about our salvation." If you are saved, praise God! His Word says that His Spirit testifies with our spirit that we are His children (Romans 8:16). That is awesome indeed! Jesus also said in John 15 that we are His if we abide in Him, abide in His love, keep His commandments, and bear much fruit. Also in Philippians 2:13 it says, "for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure." There is nothing more satisfying than having the Spirit of the Living God working in us, filling us with His love, joy, peace, and all of the other fruit of the Spirit. There is also no disputing God's Word that promises "that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ" (Philippians 1:6). If this message isn't applying to you, perhaps you can share it with someone else. There are many who this applies to. That is what His Word says.

What does that all mean, and what am I driving at? First of all, it must be said, that it is only God who saves us by His grace that is in Christ Jesus, not by our own works (Ephesians 2:8-9) and it is God who sanctifies us in His righteousness (I Corinthians 1:30) through His Spirit that He places in us. But, if there is no evidence of Him working in you, if there is no communion between you and the Father, if His Righteousness and Love is not being revealed in you, there could be a problem. You can sit in every church service on Sunday and shout "Amen!" but that really doesn't mean anything when it comes down to your salvation. It may not be a question of whether one needs to get better in Christ, the question becomes, ARE you in Christ? Are

you really saved? Why preach this message? Jesus did. Over and over and over. Just for the record, I am not thinking of any person in typing this message. I'm not intending to single out anyone in particular. All I know is this message is burning in me to share and that Jesus warned over and over that there will be many on the road to destruction and not even know it. Would I not be void of the compassion of Christ if I held back in fear of offending someone?

Now if anyone knows the patience and longsuffering of the Lord in dealing with someone (me), it is I. I am the last person on earth that can or should judge anyone else (after all, I am not God). Therefore, I will not, and am not judging anyone in this message. I sat on the fence of indifference for many years. But God, in His great mercy pulled me up out of the pit, the "miry clay" to walk in His "newness of life." Praise God! But God's Word still says to "redeem the time for the days are evil" (Ephesians 5:16) and that "now is the day of salvation" (II Corinthians 6:2). We are not guaranteed tomorrow. Jesus warned over and over about those that will come to Him at the judgment and He will say, "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven." Likewise in the book of Matthew is the parables of the Marriage Supper, the 10 Virgins, the Talents, and the separating of the sheep and goats which are speaking of their works (of faith). God is certainly calling to all who will hear His voice, for He desires for none to perish, but that all should come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9) and to come in through His Way (Jesus Christ), to be reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 5:18-20 (NKJV)

Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.