

## **A FEW THINGS**

Intro.

1. God wants all men to be saved - 1 Tim. 2:3-4; 2 Pet. 3:9.

This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. (1 Timothy 2:3-4 NASB)

*The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance. (2 Peter 3:9 NASB)*

2. Yet, most reject the Christ due to spiritual blindness.

**John 12:37-40** NASB 37 *But though He had performed so many signs before them, yet they were not believing in Him; 38 that the word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spoke, "LORD, WHO HAS BELIEVED OUR REPORT? AND TO WHOM HAS THE ARM OF THE LORD BEEN REVEALED?" 39 For this cause they could not believe, for Isaiah said again, 40 "HE HAS BLINDED THEIR EYES, AND HE HARDENED THEIR HEART; LEST THEY SEE WITH THEIR EYES, AND PERCEIVE WITH THEIR HEART, AND BE CONVERTED, AND I HEAL THEM."*

3. Where will you spend your eternity?

### **I. JESUS SAID FEW ARE SAVED - Matt. 7:13-14.**

**Matthew 7:13-14** NASB 13 *"Enter by the narrow gate; for the gate is wide, and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and many are those who enter by it. 14 "For the gate is small, and the way is narrow that leads to life, and few are those who find it.*

#### **A. It Is A False Security To Think That Everybody Goes To Heaven - Matt. 7:13-14.**

**Matthew 7:21-27** NAS95 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 will enter. 22 "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' 23 "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.' 24 "Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 "And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall,*

*for it had been founded on the rock. 26 "Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. 27 "The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell--and great was its fall."*

1. How many are saved?
  - a. cf. Noah, 1 Pet. 3:20 - 8 out of all the world.
  - b. Only Joshua & Caleb entered Canaan out of 2-3 million!
2. Who goes to heaven? - 7:21-23, 24-27.
  - a. 7:21-23 - Those who do the Father's will.
  - b. 7:24-27 - These are those who hear & obey Jesus - Heb. 5:9.
3. The "chosen" are saved - Matt. 20:16; 22:14. Who are they?

***B. Those Who Strive To Enter The Narrow Gate - Lk. 13:23-24 (16:16).***

1. Strive (AV, strive 3, fight 3, labour fervently 1; 7) - "metaph. to contend, struggle, with difficulties and dangers...to endeavour with strenuous zeal, strive: to obtain something" (Thayer).
  - a. Against unbelief - Acts 26:27-28 (Agrippa didn't strive to believe).

***Acts 26:27-28 NAS95*** 27 "King Agrippa, do you believe the Prophets? I know that you do." 28 Agrippa replied to Paul, "In a short time you will persuade me to become a Christian."

- b. Against self - Acts 26:9 (Saul strove w/ himself - admitted wrong).

Acts 26:9 NAS95 9 "So then, I thought to myself that I had to do many things hostile to the name of Jesus of Nazareth.

- c. Against sin - cf. Lk. 19:8-10 (Zacchaeus strove against sin!).

***Luke 19:8-10 NAS95*** 8 Zacchaeus stopped and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, half of my possessions I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will give back four times as much." 9 And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham. 10 "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

2. Personal choice is being made right now! - Josh. 24:15; 2 Cor. 6:2

**Joshua 24:15** NAS95 15 "If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

**2 Corinthians 6:2** NAS95 2 for He says, "AT THE ACCEPTABLE TIME I LISTENED TO YOU, AND ON THE DAY OF SALVATION I HELPED YOU." Behold, now is "THE ACCEPTABLE TIME," behold, now is "THE DAY OF SALVATION" --

## II. **JESUS SAID THERE ARE FEW LABORERS - Matt. 9:37.**

**Matthew 9:37** NAS95 37 Then He \*said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.

### A. **Who Will Truly Care For The Spiritual Welfare Of Others - Phil. 2:19-22** (cf. servant heart - Matt. 20:26-28). Godly motives at work.

**Philippians 2:19-22** NAS95 19 *But I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, so that I also may be encouraged when I learn of your condition. 20 For I have no one else of kindred spirit who will genuinely be concerned for your welfare. 21 For they all seek after their own interests, not those of Christ Jesus. 22 But you know of his proven worth, that he served with me in the furtherance of the gospel like a child serving his father.*

**Matthew 20:26-28** NAS95 26 "It is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, 27 and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave; 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

1. Not complacent & lethargic - Zealous.

**Romans 12:11** NAS95 11 *not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;*

2. Stagnation kills a congregation! Will not be saved! - Rev. 3:1

### B. **Who Will Serve Instead Of Being Served - 3 Jno. 9-10.**

1. "Rule or ruin" is the motto (real or implied) of too many.
2. Subtle at times:
  - a. Ruin reputations,
  - b. confidence in others,
  - c. Effectiveness of one's influence & the gospel by slander,
  - d. Gossip,
  - e. Opposition to godly work - 3 Jno. 9-10 (prating - "to talk long and idly" (akin to Middle Low German pratten to pout)).

**C. Who Will Preach The Whole Counsel Of God - Acts 20:26-28.**

**Acts 20:26-28** NAS95 26 "Therefore, I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men. 27 "For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God. 28 "Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

1. Preachers who will preach - 2 Tim. 4:2.

**2 Timothy 4:2** NAS95 2 preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.

2. Elders who will feed the flock (not themselves) - Acts 20:28.
3. Saints who will follow their leadership - Heb. 13:17.

**Hebrews 13:17** NAS95 17 Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.

**III. JESUS SAID TO BE FAITHFUL OVER A FEW THINGS - Matt. 25:21-23.**

**A. The Lord Has Placed Something Into Our Hands To Use In His Service - Matt. 25:14-19, 21, 23, 25-30; cf. Exo. 4:2.**

1. Abilities,
2. Possessions,
3. Communication skills,
4. Labor skills,

5. Teaching skills, etc.

**B. Use it to serve the Lord!**

**Luke 16:10** NAS95 10 *"He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much; and he who is unrighteous in a very little thing is unrighteous also in much.*

**Conclusion**

1. Rev. 2:14, 20 - Does Jesus have a few things against us?
2. Rev. 3:4 - Or are we among the few who have not defiled themselves? The Lord knows our names!
3. Strive to enter the narrow gate that leads to heaven!! Obey Jesus now!