

The Scariest Chapter In The Bible

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Prov 9:10

**10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.
(KJV)**

Christian life begins with the “fear of the LORD”. The word fear in the original Hebrew means *reverence* or *respect*, but it also means *fear* and *terror*. There is that side of God that we all love knowing and dwelling on, and that is His love, grace, goodness, mercy and the list goes on. But there is also that side of God that should bring us to *fear*, and if we find ourselves living outside the will of God, we should not only experience *fear*, but also *terror*. To those endeavoring to live the Christian life, this is a sobering thought indeed. God is a good father, and being a good father, he insists that things be done a certain way in His family. Jesus lets us know this in John 10:1:

John 10:1

**1 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.
(KJV)**

There is only one door that gives us entrance into the sheepfold. God is not the author of confusion (I Corinthians 14:33). There is only one plan of salvation, and if any man would try to enter another way, he becomes nothing more than a thief and a robber. Notice the warnings in the following verses:

Ezek 18:4

**4 Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die.
(KJV)**

Heb 4:1

**1 Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.
(KJV)**

John 12:48

**48 He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.
(KJV)**

Rev 22:18-19

18 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:

19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

(KJV)

James 2:10

10 For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.

(KJV)

1 Pet 4:18

18 And if the righteous (professing Christians) scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?

(KJV)

II Th 1:7-9

7 And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from Heaven with his mighty angels,

8 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

9 Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

(KJV)

And this is the condensed list. The Bible is full of warnings that the endeavoring Christian should take very seriously. God is very serious about His word, and, bottom-line, if we don't do it His way it won't work. Heaven will not be at the other end. And one of the scariest warnings in the Bible is given in one of the scariest chapters in the Bible, and that is the seventh chapter of Matthew, verses 13-29. The reason this chapter is such a dire warning to the endeavoring Christian, is because it clearly teaches that *very few professing Christians are actually going to Heaven!*

Verses 13-29 of Matthew 7 can be divided into 4 warnings. Let's look at them.

Part 1, verses 13-14

Matt 7:13-29

13 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:

14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

(KJV)

The word “strait” means *narrow*. The word “narrow” means *a compressed way*. How often has a true Apostolic preacher been called narrow-minded? Thank God for the narrow minded! It is the compressed and narrow path that leads to eternal life. Jesus let us know that the way to destruction is a “wide” and “broad” way, and that many were going to take that easy path. But only a few, Jesus said, would take the narrow and strait way to eternal life. We will find that both the “many” and the “few” in this teaching are professing Christians. Why will only a few professing Christians make it to Heaven? Because of false teachers. Those who take from, or add to the Word of God.

Part 2, verses 13-14

15 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

16 Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?

17 Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.

18 A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.

19 Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

20 Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

(KJV)

A false prophet is simply a false preacher. In Acts 8, when Philip found the Ethiopian reading from the book of Isaiah, he asked him if he understood what he was reading. The Ethiopian responded by asking, “How can I, except some man should guide me?”. We all need a teacher, someone to guide us through God’s word. The Bible lets us know in Ephesians 4:12 that the ministry (our teachers) is given for the “perfecting” or the *completing* of the Christian. Jesus said in reference to false ministers:

Matt 15:14

14 Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.

(KJV)

A blind leader is one who does not teach the true plan of salvation. He is one who cheats the people by not leading them into a life of holiness and separation from the world. He is a teacher who does not have the proper fear and reverence for God and His word. And it is the false teachers who will bear the guilt of leading the many into the broad way of destruction. Sadly, if we follow a blind leader, we will join him in his ditch. The word ditch is a reference to hell. Later in this lesson, we will discuss how to identify a false teacher.

Part 3, verses 21-23

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.

22 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?

23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

(KJV)

This is a picture of a future judgement where “many” will be rejected. And who are the many? They are the ones who said to Jesus “Lord, Lord”. And who would call Him Lord? Professing Christians! These are not atheists, Muslims, or Buddhists being rejected. They are not Satanists, agnostics or Hindus or some other group that denies the one true God. They are professing Christians who, because of false teachers, will be denied the Heaven they have been looking forward to. It is a sobering thought indeed to hear Jesus teach that most people who call Him Lord, are not really Christians at all, and that only a few professing Christians will actually make it to Heaven. He said,

John 14:15

15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.

(KJV)

God is very serious about His word being obeyed. Beware of false prophets!

Part 4, verses 24 –29

24 Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

25 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

26 And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:

27 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

28 And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine:

29 For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

(KJV)

Jesus, God made known in flesh, is the greatest of all teachers! What a vivid picture of one who would “hear” and “do” His sayings, and one would “hear” and “do not” His sayings (the Word of God). So many people today hear the Word of God, yet they are filled with excuses, so they never “do” the Word of God. They say, “Is that really

important?” “Is that really for us today?” “Would God really send someone to hell for not (fill in the blank)?” This chapter clearly answers these excuses, as does James 1:22:

James 1:22

22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.
(KJV)

When we build our house upon the “rock”, the Word of God, it will stand. If we ignore the Word of God, we are building on sand, and our house will fall, and great will be the fall of it. It has been preached that there is something worse than hell, and that is being in hell knowing if you would have been a doer of the Word, you could have been in Heaven.

How do you tell a false prophet?

So how do you tell a false teacher, and escape the perils Jesus describes in this chapter? Our answer is found in I John 4:6:

I Jn 4:6

6 We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.
(KJV)

John was an Apostle. When he says “We” he is referring to the Apostles (see also II Peter 3:2). Being an accurate teacher of the scriptures is not as difficult as it may appear. It is a simple matter of teaching the same things the Apostles taught. And it gets even simpler when we “rightly divide” the Word of God (II Timothy 2:1). There are two types of people in the world, the “saved”, and the “unsaved”. We have the Apostles words to the “saved” in the books of Romans through Jude inclusive. And we have the Apostles words to the “unsaved” in the book of Acts. We can know the “spirit of truth, and the spirit of error” by comparing what is being taught to the saved to the books of Romans through Jude, and to the unsaved in the book of Acts.

The books of Romans through Jude are letters written to churches or individuals who were already “saved”. For example, the book of Romans was written to the church at Rome (Rom 1:7), the books of I and II Corinthians to the church at Corinth (I Cor 1:2, II Cor 1:1), the book of Galatians to the church at Galatia (Gal 1:2), and the list goes on. The book of James, the two letters Peter wrote, and the three John wrote were meant to be circulated among all the churches. The books of I and II Timothy, Titus, and Philemon were written to men who had already been born again. So all of the letters from Romans through Jude are written to churches and individuals who were already saved. When a teacher is teaching those who are already saved, all he has to do is teach what the Apostles taught in these letters to the churches. Though there are

many verses in these letters which refer to the plan of salvation, it is only in the book of Acts that we can actually see someone being saved.

The book of Acts is actually called The Acts of the Apostles. It is only in the book of Acts that we can actually *see* someone being born again. When we are desiring to be saved, a true teacher will teach the same things the Apostles taught in the book of Acts. It is the Christians responsibility to insure that the teaching they are receiving is true Bible teaching. A true teacher will teach the “saved” from the letters (epistles in the Greek), and the “unsaved” from the book of Acts. And, as John said, “Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error”.

In Acts, chapter 2, Peter preached to the same people who had crucified the Lord. He told them:

Acts 2:36

**36 Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.
(KJV)**

Immediately these Jews began to feel conviction for the sin of crucifying their own Messiah. They wanted to know what they should do. Notice the next verse:

Acts 2:37

**37 Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the Apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?
(KJV)**

Because Peter was a true teacher, even an Apostle, and therefore the standard, he gave a true answer:

Acts 2:38

**38 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.
(KJV)**

Peter was asked by sincere people who were desiring to take care of the sin question, “What shall we do?”. Any teacher who is asked, “what shall we do”, *must* give the same answer. If they do not they are a false prophet. One might say all you have to do to be saved is:

“Just receive the Lord.” False prophet!

“Just believe in God.” False prophet!

“You don’t really have to change your life, or repent to be saved.” False prophet!

“You don’t really have to be baptized to be saved.” False prophet!

“You don’t really have to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ to be saved.” False prophet!

“You don’t have to receive the Holy Ghost to be saved.” False prophet!

In order to get rid of the sin of crucifying their own Messiah, they had to “repent”, they had to be “baptized in the name of Jesus Christ”, and they had to “receive the gift of the Holy Ghost”. Peter went on to say in the next verse:

Acts 2:39

39 For the promise is unto you (*those present there*), and to your children (*the next generation*), and to all that are afar off (*that’s us!*), even as many as the Lord our God shall call (*everyone who has ever been called to be a Christian*).

(KJV)

When we repent, we fulfill the following:

We obey Jesus command in Luke 13:3,5:

Luke 13:3-5

3 I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

5 I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

(KJV)

We express true belief:

John 3:16

16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

(KJV)

When we are baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, we fulfill the following:

We are born again of the water:

John 3:3-5

3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

4 Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?

5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

(KJV)

We obey Jesus:

Mark 16:16

16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.
(KJV)

We follow Jesus' example:

Matt 3:14-16

14 But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me?

15 And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him.

16 And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:
(KJV)

We receive spiritual circumcision:

Col 2:11-12

11 In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ:

12 Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.
(KJV)

We obey the teaching in I Corinthians 6:9-11

1 Cor 6:9-11

9 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,

10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.
(KJV)

We obey the teaching in Titus 3:5:

Titus 3:5

5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;
(KJV)

When we are baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, we put on Christ:

Gal 3:27

27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.
(KJV)

When we receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost, we fulfill the following:

We are born again of the Spirit:

John 3:3-5

3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

4 Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?

5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

(KJV)

We are adopted into God's family:

Rom 8:15

15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

(KJV)

We are baptized into His body:

1 Cor 12:13

13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

(KJV)

We become His:

Rom 8:9

9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

(KJV)

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11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

(KJV)

We obey the teaching in Titus 3:5

Titus 3:5

5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

(KJV)

We know we *must* obey the Gospel:

II Th 1:7-9

7 And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,

8 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

9 Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

(KJV)

Paul has defined the gospel as Jesus “death, burial, and resurrection” of Jesus Christ.

1 Cor 15:1-4

1 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;

2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.

3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

(KJV)

We obey Jesus’ death when we repent:

Rom 6:6

6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

(KJV)

We obey Jesus’ burial when we are baptized:

Rom 6:4

4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

(KJV)

Col 2:12

12 Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.
(KJV)

We obey Jesus' resurrection when we receive the Holy Ghost:

Rom 6:4-5

4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death (baptism), we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: (... be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. Acts 2:38)
(KJV)

Col 2:12

12 Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.
(KJV)

Every verse in the Bible that pertains to salvation can be understood in the light of Acts chapter 2, and verse 38 (Acts 2:38). There are many more references that could be added here, but this is more than enough to teach the sincere what they must do to find a true Bible experience that will become a house built on the rock. We must find the straight and narrow road that leads to life, and avoid the broad way that leads to destruction. The Bible teaches we must all appear before the Lord to give account of the things done in this life. When we do, we do not want to be among those professing Christians who will hear Jesus say, "I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity", Matthew 7:23.