

# The Bulletin

## Meeks St. Church of Christ

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February 9, 2020

### **“Why Few Will Be Saved”**

By Brian Meade



The Bible tells us in Luke 13:23, *“And someone said to Him, ‘Lord, are there just a few who are being saved?’”* The Holy Spirit saw the need to record this question that some unnamed individual seemed to ask randomly of our Lord, and He did so for our benefit. There are some truths in Jesus’ answer that help us know the reality of the condition most people around us are in— much like Jesus’ statements in Matthew 7:13-14.

Let’s look at Jesus’ answer in Luke 13:24-30:

*“Strive to enter through the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able.*

*“Once the head of the house gets up and shuts the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock on the door, saying, ‘Lord, open up to us!’ then He will answer and say to you, ‘I do not know where you are from.’ “Then you will begin to say, ‘We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets’; and He will say, ‘I tell you, I do not know where you are from; depart from Me, all you evildoers.’ “In that place 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, but yourselves being thrown out. “And they will come from east and west and from north and south, and will recline at the table in the kingdom of God. “And behold, some are last who will be first and some are first who will be last.”*

The obvious lessons Jesus was conveying to us: (1) Few people are actually striving with all that is within them to enter into eternal life. (2) Many will NOT be able to enter into eternal life because of various reasons. (3) And that we should Not take familiarity with Jesus as the same as actual service to Him!

But what I want to focus on with this article is to look at some of the possible reasons WHY few people will be saved. Why it is only a few people see what is required to enter into life.

#### **I. Few Truly Believe In God.**

The Bible not only teaches that real, genuine faith is important to have, but that it is absolutely essential! In Hebrews 11:6, the Bible says, *“And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.”* We must be pleasing to God to have His approval and salvation in that final Day of Judgment.

Hebrews 11:1 talks about our faith being *“...the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”* Do we “walk by faith (conviction), and not by sight?” as Paul and all Christians must characterize their lives in reality of life, death, and the Judgment! (see 2 Corinthians 5:7) Or are most people in the world just interested in this life only, and never truly living by faith?

In John 8:24, Jesus speaks to the Jews about their lack of faith in Him, when He says, *“Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.”* There are those who are making the same mistake that the Jews made then, by not believing and obeying the Christ. Atheist, agnostics, Muslims (who may acknowledge Jesus, but deny His deity), Buddhist (who follow his teaching over Christ’s), and the masses of people in the world either considered moral by general standards, or even the immoral who know they are not pleasing God by faithful

service to Jesus. This constitutes the majority of those on the broad road that leads to destruction (Matthew 7:13). Faith in God constitutes more than mental ascent (James 2:19).

The Hebrew writer teaches us that Israel failed to enter the promised land because of their “unbelief” (Hebrews 3:7-19). And then he applies that teaching to us as he says, “*Therefore, let us fear if, while a promise remains of entering His rest, any one of you may seem to have come short of it. For indeed we have had good news preached to us, just as they also; but the word they heard did not profit them, because it was not united by faith in those who heard. For we who have believed enter that rest, just as He has said, “As I swore in My wrath, They shall not enter My rest,” although His works were finished from the foundation of the world.*” (Hebrews 4:1-3).

If we want to enter into God’s rest of heaven, we need to truly be people of faith! We must trust and believe God with all our heart, and then our every action, our every thought, and our every purpose will be what pleases God!

Yet, few people truly believe in Jesus to that level of trust and commitment.

And then in 1 John 5:4, “*For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.*” Faith gives us the victory over temptation, over trials, over sin, and even over the grave! But it is faith in Jesus Christ as God’s Son and living for Him that is real, genuine faith! And even though it is always available, free of charge monetarily, and completely in our power to have it— Few will have that victory won by faith.

## **II. Few Are Truly Willing To Give Up Their Sin.**

Why is it that men and women here refuse to give up their sins, vices, and evil deeds? It is the pleasure that comes from sin that appeals to most people in the world. It is the main reason why they stubbornly hang on to what God calls evil and wicked deeds! The Bible even tells us that there are pleasures made available in sin— but we should choose to turn away from such pleasure!

Notice the decision Moses made while living in Egypt, “*By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he was looking to the reward.*” (Hebrews 11:24-26)

It is the majority of the world that listens to the devil’s philosophy to “live for all the pleasure you can get now!” It is expressed in terms as, “You only live once, so grab all that life has to offer!” “Life is about wine, women, and song!” “Eat, drink, and be merry for tomorrow we die.”

These sayings, and those similar to them, are hedonistic in nature— as they are only concerned about pleasing self.

Many are like Paul told Timothy, “*For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God.”*

## **III. Few Are Actually Following God’s Word.**

While many claim to be following the teachings of the Bible as God wants, in reality it is only a few who actually are! The proof of this is in the practices of men. When the Bible calls for us to be united in faith & practice (John 17:20-21), yet men are hopelessly divided by doctrines and commandments of men.

When the Bible calls for us to be saved by faith (John 8:24), repentance (Acts 17:30), confession of Christ (Romans 10:10), and baptism for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38)— Yet men are teaching salvation by faith alone, by saying the sinner’s prayer, and by a direct operation of the Holy Spirit.

So much error is being taught in the religious world today concerning the work and worship of the church, premillennialism, and spiritual gifts!

It is few that are NOT blindly following the creeds and doctrines that men have devised to suit their own preferences (Matthew 15:9; 2 Timothy 4:3). It is few that are “rightly dividing the word of truth.” (2 Timothy 2:15)

Few respect the silence of the Scriptures (1 Peter 4:11; Hebrews 7:12-14) and look at God’s silence as restrictive (limited)— rather than permissive by allowing anything and everything!

It is few who do not add to or take away from the Scriptures (Deuteronomy 4:2; Proverbs 30:6; 2 John 9-11).

## **IV. Few Really Desire To Be Saved!**

The Bible teaches us to “*...seek first His kingdom and His righteousness*” (Matthew 6:33). But how many really put God as first place in their list of priorities?

Jesus, while He was here on the earth, found few who did this. He found many who had other things they put “first” before following Him (Luke 9:57-62; Matthew 19:16-22).

If we want to be saved when Jesus comes, we must strive to enter in with greater desire than we have for the things of this earth (Luke 13:24).

**News and Notes:** Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Martha Norvell (Mississippi Care), June Lawson (Lisa Busby's Mom), Debbie Keplinger, Janis Johnson, Daniel Holloway, Tammy Kilgore (Jerry's niece), Betty Hurst, Peggy Harville (cancer), Linda Harris, Hazel Corner, Clay Ford, Clois Wright, and Dan & Linda Hunt, Mollie Harris, and Danny Cottrell (Dan's Dad) his surgery will be the 13th (Feb.).

Our Spring Gospel Meeting with Billy Randolph will begin Sunday, April 19th—24th. Monday the Friday (20—24) starting time is 7:00 PM Nightly.

**Those Who Serve:**

**Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:**

**Opening Prayer:** Nathan Meade  
**Preaching:** Brian Meade  
**Sermon #1:** *"What Is Involved In Conversion To Christ"*

**Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:**

**Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:** Fred Johnson  
The Book of Romans (Kyle Pope)  
*Page #74 , Question #11*

**Announcements:** Fred Johnson  
**Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading:** Russell Briggs  
*1 Peter 5:5-8*  
**Song Leader:** Paul Busby  
**Lord's Supper:** Paul Johnson  
**Assisting:** Lee Busby & Jerry Kennemur  
**Preaching:** Brian Meade  
**Sermon #2:** *"How Do We Know God Cares?"*  
**Closing Prayer:** Dan Cottrell

**Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.**

**February 12th:**

**Auditorium Bible Class:** Paul Johnson  
The Book of Psalms (Randy Blackaby)  
*Page #47, Question #1*  
**Invitation:** Russell Briggs  
**Song Leader:** Paul Johnson  
**Closing Prayer:** Tim Harris Sr.