

## THAT YOU MIGHT KNOW

1 John 1:1-7

2/1/04

Note what Jesus said. Matthew 10:34-39; Mk 10:17-26; Luke 3:3,7-14

The Bible repeatedly warns us that many who call themselves Christians are not truly saved.

**Matthew 7:21-24** "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.**'

Sadly there are many who sit in churches every Sunday who are not saved. They make a profession of faith, but their lives don't back it up

**James 2:17**

**Mt 7:20**

Many have bought into a shallow and false gospel where they have simply come to Jesus for peace, prosperity, happiness, and self-fulfillment but not for obedience. This is not saving faith.

Many people today believe that they are automatically saved because they come to church, have signed a card, walked and aisle, recited a prayer, asked Jesus into their heart, while never truly confronting the issue of sin in their lives.

No one can be regenerated by simply adding Jesus to his carnal activities. The divine miracle of a changed life reveals true salvation.

Someone who calls himself a Christian yet doesn't think and act like a Christian, is not on the road he thinks he is. The person who thinks he can come to Jesus while maintaining his personal ambition, self-indulgence, self-will, selfish desires, immorality, and a reluctance to submit to the leadership of Christ is fooling himself.

The life we live, not the words we speak, is the best indicator of our salvation.

**2 Corinthians 13:5** Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you -- unless indeed you fail the test?

1 John gives us:

7 tests of salvation

6 characteristics of those “born of God.”

## 1. The Proclamation Of The Apostles 1:1-3a

### a. The Source Of The Proclamation

- They were eyewitnesses from the beginning
  - ◆ *heard, seen, handled*
  - ◆ Jesus was a physical reality
    - ◇ Not a myth
    - ◇ Not a spiritual emanation
  - ◆ Jesus’ miracles, resurrection and messages are things they saw, heard and experienced firsthand.

### b. The Subject Of The Proclamation

- *Word of Life*- Jesus cf John 1:1-4, 14
  - ◆ **John 11:25** Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies,
- *Eternal life*- Jesus is the essence and source of eternal life
  - ◆ **1 John 5:11-12** And the witness is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. 12 He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.
    - ◇ He is the only source of eternal life.

◇ John 14:6; 17:3

## 2. The Purposes Of This Epistle 1:3b-4

a. That we might have fellowship with the apostles and with God. v. 3b

- Fellowship

- ◆ A oneness, partnership, commonality, and unity.

- ◇ Here it is referring to a sharing a oneness and unity in Christ i.e. salvation

- ◇ 1 Corinthians 1:9 God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

- Fellowship with God and the Apostles required that they believe the one and only true message of eternal life.

- ◆ 1 John 2:23 Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also.

- ◆ 2 John 7-11 cf John 8:23-24

b. That our joy might be made complete. v. 4

- cf John 15

c. That we may not sin. 2:1

d. That we might not be deceived. 2:26

- Satan always sees that there are many people out there who would deceive us.

- ◆ Religious and secular.

- ◇ Ephesians 4:14 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;

**e. That we might know that we have eternal life. 5:13**

**3. The Message 1:5-7**

**a. God is light. v. 5**

- John 1:4-14; 3:16-21;
- John 8:12 Again therefore Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall not walk in the darkness, but shall have the light of life."
- John 12:35-36, 44-46
- **light vs. darkness**
  - ♦ righteousness vs sin
  - ♦ truth vs. ignorance, lies, and falsehoods
  - ♦ love vs. hate
  - ♦ Characteristics of those who belong to the Kingdom of God vs. those who belong to the kingdom of Satan.

**b. Only those who walk in the light have fellowship with God and His people. vv. 6-7a**

- Walking in the light means to walk in truth, righteousness, and love. cf 2:3-6, 9-11
  - ♦ The world is filled with people who are unwilling to submit their lives to God's word, but insist that they are Christians.
    - ◇ The fact is, those who are unwilling to submit to the lordship of Christ as reveal that their claim to Christianity is a tragic illusion.
- To walk in the light means to live obedient, godly, loving lives.
  - ♦ Ephesians 5:3-14

- ◆ Acts 26:18 to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.'
  - **Colossians 1:13-14** For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.
  - **1 Thessalonians 5:4** But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief; 5 for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness; 6 so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober.
  - **2 Corinthians 6:14-16** Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have *righteousness* and *lawlessness*, or what fellowship has *light* with *darkness*? 15 Or what harmony has *Christ* with *Belial*, or what has a *believer* in common with an *unbeliever*?
- c. **Those who walk in the light have been cleansed by the blood of Christ. v. 7b**
- **1 Peter 1:18-19** knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, 19 but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, *the blood* of Christ.
  - **Revelation 1:5** and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood --
  - **Ephesians 1:7** In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace
  - **Salvation is by faith alone, but saving faith is never alone.**

- ◆ Ephesians 2:8-10
- ◆ Philippians 1:6
- **Six Characteristics of those “born of God.”**
  - ◆ 2:29 Practice righteousness
  - ◆ 3:9-10 Do not practice sin
  - ◆ 4:7 Love
  - ◆ 5:1 Believe that Jesus is the Christ
  - ◆ 5:4 Overcome the world
  - ◆ 5:18 Does not practice sin
- Salvation is by faith alone, but those who are truly saved recognize the Lordship of Christ over their lives.
  - ◆ They are born again.
  - ◆ They are in the process of sanctification.
- Can a Christian have times of carnality?
  - ◆ Yes, 1 John 1:8-10
    - ◇ but God will discipline those who are truly His.  
Hebrews 12:6-8
- Can a Christian lose his/her salvation?
  - ◆ No, but there are some who profess that they know Christ but are not truly saved.

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**MacArthur:** Following Jesus is not about you and me. Being a Christian is not about us; it's not about our self-esteem. It's about our being sick of our sin and desperate need for forgiveness. It is about seeing Christ as the priceless Savior from sin and death and hell, so that we willingly give up as much as it takes, even if it costs us our families, our marriages, and whatever else we cherish or possess.

The message of the cross is not about felt needs. It is not about Jesus loving you so much He wants to make you happy. It is about rescuing you from damnation, because that is the sentence that rests upon the head of every human being.