

TRUE SALVATION

What You Need to Know About Eternity (Part 1)

³⁰ As he was saying these things, many believed in him. ³¹ So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, 'If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.' ³³ They answered him, 'We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, "You will become free"?' ³⁴ Jesus answered them, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. ³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. ³⁷ I know that you are offspring of Abraham; yet you seek to kill me because my word finds no place in you. ³⁸ I speak of what I have seen with my Father, and you do what you have heard from your father.'" John 8:30-38 (ESV)

¹⁸ 'Hear then the parable of the sower: ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. ²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹ yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. ²² As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. ²³ As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.' ²⁴ He put another parable before them, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, ²⁵ but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. ²⁶ So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. ²⁷ And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, "Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?" ²⁸ He said to them, "An enemy has done this." So the servants said to him, "Then do you want us to go and gather them?" ²⁹ But he said, "No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them.'" Matthew 13:18-29 (ESV)

I. MANY PEOPLE BELIEVE IN JESUS.

Profession does not equal Conversion

¹⁹ You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!" James 2:19 (ESV)

²⁸ He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' So the servants said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' ²⁹ But he said, 'No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. ³⁰ Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'" Matthew 13:28-30 (ESV)

²¹ 'Not everyone who says to me, "Lord, Lord," will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.'" Matthew 7:21 (ESV)

II. GENUINE DISCIPLES ABIDE IN JESUS' WORDS.

³⁰ As he was saying these things, many believed in him. ³¹ So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, 'If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples,'" John 8:30-31 (ESV)

Abide – "to remain or continue"

Salvation happens at a moment in time but it's demonstrated over time.

- Abiding in Jesus' Words is abiding in what has been revealed in His Word about Him.

III. ABIDING LEADS TO FREEDOM.

³¹ ... 'If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.'" John 8:31b-32 (ESV)

Freedom From What?

- The power of sin.
- The pain of sin.

IV. FALSE DISCIPLES DON'T RECOGNIZE BONDAGE.

³³ They answered him, 'We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, "You will become free"?' ³⁴ Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin." John 8:33-34 (ESV)

Bondage Check-Up:

- Do you have a secret sin that is increasing its control on your life?
- Do you have a capacity to hold on to an offense if someone hurts you?
- Do you have a reflex reaction to reminders about sin in your life?
- Do you find overt discussions about Spiritual things aggravating?
- Do you battle a critical spirit towards people who appear devoted to Christ?

V. FALSE DISCIPLES DON'T REMAIN IN CHRIST.

³⁵ The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever." John 8:35 (ESV)