

ASSURANCES FROM SATAN

Matthew 22:2-14

Introduction: Jesus tells of a wedding where everybody who was invited had a white scarf given to be worn across the shoulders. Thus a "wedding garment" and the white was to symbolize the purity of the bride. If anybody showed up for the wedding without the white scarf, they were considered to be uninvited and were turned away. Jesus tells of a man who showed up at a wedding without the wedding garment and he was quickly removed from the wedding.

Many people expecting to go to heaven won't. Just like the man in the story Jesus told (text) who expected to be a part of the wedding festivities but was refused. Everyone you know, including "you" will one day leave this world but not everyone will necessarily go to heaven. The necessary "wedding garment" that will be needed is salvation which comes when one believes in Jesus, entrusting everything to Him.

People often have their own ideas of what it takes to get into heaven and Satan is quick to assure them that all will be well, not to worry.

I. ASSURANCES FROM SATAN

1. Satan says: **"Why you must be saved because you are a church member, remember, you joined the church..."**
 - The actual truth is that not everything that is religious is godly and not everything that is spiritual is Christian. The biggest curse that ever came to mankind is **religion** (man attempts to satisfy the innate need to worship God). God says **"...ye must be born again..."** to get to heaven.
2. Satan says: **"You must be saved because you were baptized."**
 - The actual truth is that the only people for whom baptism is truly meaningful are born-again Christians. If a person was a non believer when put under the water, that person came up a wet non believer and still unsaved and not going to heaven, but to hell with Satan.
3. Satan says: **"You must be saved because only Christians get their prayers answered."**
 - The truth is that the Bible says that only God's Children, Christians, have their prayers answered. Anyone who is an unbeliever does not have access to God except a single prayer that God will hear and that is a prayer of repentance and asking for salvation through belief in Jesus. Some **may think** God answered a prayer but some Christian friend may have prayed a similar prayer on behalf of that person or....Satan, himself, answered the prayer. He does that.
4. Satan says: **"Well, you know Acts 16:31: 'Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved.' So, if you will just believe that one day you did believe, then that's all you need to do."**
 - The actual truth is just thinking or saying "I believe in Jesus" does not save you. To believe is to commit, to trust, to rely on, to adhere to, with all the heart. It's not just saying words.
5. Satan says: **"Well, you must be saved because one day you prayed that prayer the preacher said for for you to repeat after him."**

- The truth is that it is possible to get a person to say what you want them to say because they want to please you or some other reason. **Matthew 15:8: "This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoreth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me."** It is possible to say a prayer inviting, asking Jesus into one's heart but have no life changing effect. **Belief is a MUST.** Jesus must be Lord. Jesus must be Savior.

6. Satan says: **"Well, you must be saved because you went forward at the end of that service and even cried."**

- The truth is that you can walk a church aisle at the invitation of the preacher, cry, shake his hand, fill out a card and do all the things asked to do and still not be born again. One is not saved by remorse, shaking hands or filling out cards. One is saved by repenting and calling upon the Lord to save.

II. HOW TO KNOW FOR SURE YOU HAVE BEEN SAVED

1. Have you ever realized you were separated from God because of what He calls sin? Have you ever wanted to get things straightened out between you and God? Have you ever gone to God in all sincerity and as best you knew how confessed (admitted) that you were exactly what God called you, a sinner and that you wanted to be forgiven and cleansed? Have you ever believed that Jesus is the only one that can save you and make all things right between you and God? Have you ever asked Jesus to save you?
2. When a person believes in Jesus with all the heart, in all sincerity, confessing his/her sins asking for forgiveness, in that moment Salvation happens and the Holy Spirit comes to indwell that person.
- One is "born again" thus a new person, changed, old things passed away, all things became new.
3. When a person is saved, sin is no longer a pleasure, it brings shame and disgust and immediately one goes to God for forgiveness. There is a thirst for God's Word and for fellowship with Christians.
4. **2 Corinthians 5:17 John 5:18 1 Corinthians 6:9 1 John 2:4; 3:8-10**

CONCLUSION:

1. **"It is appointed unto man once to die and after that the judgment"** Time to stand before almighty God.
2. Of all the things one should be sure of is "where will eternity be spent" is the most important.
3. Satan is very good at what he does - keeping people out of heaven.
4. God says that Jesus is the only way to heaven and **"whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish but have eternal life..."** Jesus said: **"I am the way, the truth, and the life, and no one comes to the Father but by me..."**
5. Who should you listen to? Yourself? Others? Satan? or God?
6. Whom you listen to and obey determines where you will spend eternity.