

Jesus Warns His Church!

Rev. 22:18-19 We are not to add to or take away from His Word!

Apostasy “the abandonment of a former loyalty” Webster Dict.

Revelation 2-3 Consider Jesus Messages to the Seven Churches

Rev. 2:14 Balaam turned the people of God to Idols.

Rev. 2:20 Jezebel turned the people of God to idols and sexual immorality.

Rev. 2:15 The Nicolaitans turned the people of God to self-indulgence and idolatry.

In Galatians the Judaizers turned people from Christ back to the law as a means of their salvation (Gal.5:4; Gal. 4:9-11; See also the Living Bible).

In Hebrews the people of God were turned from Christ back to Judaism (Heb. 2:1).

In Scripture, God’s relationship with His people is seen as a Marriage. Isa. 54:5; Ezekiel 16:8; the whole book of Hosea; Rom. 7:4; 2 Cor. 11:2; Eph. 5:32; Jas. 4:4-5; Rev. 21:9; Rev. 22:17.

The Apostle Paul says, “*The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons” (1 Tim. 4:1; NIV)*

The Apostle Peter says, “*In the past there were false prophets among God’s people. It is the same now. You will have some false teachers in your group. They will teach things that are wrong-teachings that will make people be lost. And those false teachers will teach in a way that will be hard for you to see that they are wrong. They will even refuse to accept the Master (Jesus) who bought their freedom. And so they will quickly destroy themselves.*” (2 Peter 2:1; Holy Bible: Easy-To-Read Version).

The Apostle John says, “*Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know it is the last hour*” (1 Jn. 2:18; NIV). “*Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray*” (1 Jn. 3:7; NIV). (The only way I know to follow Christ is through His Word!)

Jesus said, “*Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven...*” (Matt. 7:21; NIV).

Here are the facts: In today’s Christianity we have emphasized taking Christ benefits (forgiveness, eternal life, etc.). Christ emphasized taking God’s Person and God’s rule!

...Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom (the rule and reign) of heaven is at hand (Matt. 4:17; KJV) And he (Jesus) said unto them, I must preach the kingdom of God to

other cities also: for therefore am I sent. And he preached in the synagogues of Galilee (Lk. 4:43-44; KJV) For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost (Lk. 19:10; KJV). (Save from what? The rule and domain of Satan).

[6] But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some other brothers before the city officials, shouting: "These men who have caused trouble all over the world have now come here, [7] and Jason has welcomed them into his house. They are all defying Caesar's decrees, saying that there is another king, one called Jesus." (Acts 17:6-7; NIV)

[9] That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. [10] For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved (Rom. 10:9-10; NIV) (Not perfection but it is direction).

Rom. 14:9 "For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living." (KJV)

Heb. 12:14 "Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord." (NIV) (Unless you are set apart for God you won't see God).

What happens at Conversion? A change of authority, a change of rule, a change of Masters.

See Rom. 6:1-3. 17-18, 20-22 KJV

Did that happen to you? Did you become a new creature?

We have doctrines today that say – I don't have to change Masters! (See Col. 1:13-14)

The Shocking Reality: The words *king* or *kingdom* or its equivalent is used 3274 times in Scripture. 285 of those times it is used in the New Testament.

The word *faith* or its equivalent is used 786 times in Scripture.

The word *believe* or its equivalent is used 553 times in Scripture.

The word *repent* or its equivalent is used 180 times in Scripture.

The word *Christ* ("anointed" to rule as king) is used 571 times in the New Testament.

The word *Lord* (one who has the authority to rule, Deity) is used 728 times in the New Testament.

The word *Savior* is used 37 times in Scripture.

The word *disciple(s)* is used 272 times in the New Testament.

The word *Christian* is used only 2 times in the Bible.

The word *Christians* is used only 1 time in Scripture.

Other common phrases – used 0 times in Scripture.

1. Jesus said, *Not everyone who just says the words Lord, Lord will enter His Kingdom.*
Read Matthew 7:21-23 and explain why these religious people were refused entrance into Christ Kingdom.

2. In Acts 16:30-31 the Amplified Bible states, “30 And he brought them out [of the dungeon] and said, Men, what is it necessary for me to do that I may be saved?
31 And they answered, Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ [give yourself up to Him, take yourself out of your own keeping and entrust yourself into His keeping] and you will be saved, [and this applies both to] you and your household as well.” How does the Amplified attempt to translate the word “believe”? We are to believe in or on the Lord Jesus Christ. How would you define “Lord”? How would you define “Jesus”? How would you define “Christ”?
3. Read Acts 26:19-20. What do these verses tell us about *conversion*?
4. During the times of the great Evangelical Awakenings in the 18th century both the Calvinistic preachers (the early Awakenings being primarily Calvinistic) and the evangelical Arminians (Wesleyans) preached the lordship of Christ, repentance and conversion, and believed in the absolute necessity of a work of the Holy Spirit in salvation. Neither position would accept a professor as truly converted without evidence of holiness of life. Reflect on Romans 6:22-23.

2 Tim. 3:16 – Don’t change the Scripture so it can’t do its work!

Outline No. 2 - Use whichever outline would best serve you and your group.

Jesus Warns His Church - Outline No. 2

A few weeks ago I went back to Oklahoma to visit my mother and sister. While there I was informed about a friend who I knew as an on fire, born again Christian who had left his church. David was in the worship band and had proclaimed to the pastor that he did not want to sing songs about Jesus being Lord. The pastor thought he was kidding. At the end of the service David stood up and proclaimed, “I am leaving the church because the Lord has showed me that there is a better way to follow Him than through the Bible.”

I know that it is hard for some of you to receive what I am about to say, but I believe that one of the greatest concerns of the early church and of the church today is that of “apostasy.” “Apostasy” is “the abandonment of a former loyalty to Christ.” Balaam turned the people of God to idols (Rev. 2:14). Jezebel turned the people of God to sexual immorality (Rev. 2:20). The Nicolaitans turned the people of God to self-indulgence and idolatry (Rev. 2:15). In Galatians the Judaizers turned people from Christ back to the law as a means of their salvation (Gal. 5:4) In Hebrews the people of God were turned from Christ back to Judaism (Heb. 2:1). I believe we are talking about a major theme in the New Testament.

One day I was talking to Tim about predestination, election and a human’s free will. He say, “I don’t want to teach on that because it would sound like I’m talking from both sides of my mouth.” As I was praying about this, this is what came to me:

All through Scripture, both in the Old Testament and the New, God speaks of His children as if they are His wife. He chose her. He wooed her. He elected her. He set His seal of ownership

on her even to the day of her complete redemption. The question is, will she remain faithful? Does she have a free will? Can she divorce after 30 years? (Not will she, but can she?)

Are you secure in your marriage? Of course you are. You have a covenant of marriage. You don't have to work to be married. But that doesn't mean I can't turn away from my marriage. It's not a matter of doctrine, it's a matter of relationship.

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I had a student call me one time and say, “I’m going to kill you!” Isn’t that what happened to Jesus. He said He was Lord, He was God. The religious people said, “I’m going to kill you! Isn’t that what “Lord” means – Deity (God!). If you confess Him “Lord” you are submitting to His Deity! (turkey story)

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The phrase “*Ask Jesus into your heart*” is used 0 times in Scripture.

The phrase “*Receive Jesus as your personal Savior*” is used 0 times in Scripture.

The example of “*having someone repeat a prayer after someone else*” is found 0 times in Scripture.

The idea that “*grace allows me to do whatever I want to do*” is found 0 times in Scripture (Titus 2:11-12).

John MacArthur, pastor of Grace Community Church and one of the leading evangelical leaders in America has stated, “Listen to the typical gospel presentation nowadays. You’ll hear sinners entreated with words like, ‘accept Jesus Christ as personal Savior;’ ‘ask Jesus into your heart;’ ‘invite Christ into your life;’ or ‘make a decision for Christ.’ You may be so accustomed to hearing those phrases that it will surprise you to learn none of them is based on Biblical terminology.”

****Questions****

1. Jesus said, *Not everyone who just says the words Lord, Lord will enter His Kingdom.* Read Matthew 7:21-23 and explain why these religious people were refused entrance into Christ Kingdom.
2. In Acts 16:30-31 the Amplified Bible states, “*30 And he brought them out [of the dungeon] and said, Men, what is it necessary for me to do that I may be saved? 31 And they answered, Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ [give yourself up to Him, take yourself out of your own keeping and entrust yourself into His keeping] and you will be saved, [and this applies both to] you and your household as well.*” How does the Amplified attempt to translate the word “believe”?

We are to believe in or on the Lord Jesus Christ. How would you define “Lord”? How would you define “Jesus”? How would you define “Christ”?

3. Hebrews 6:5-6 (RSV) states, “*5 and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, 6 if they then commit apostasy...*” How would you define the word “apostasy”? Why do the Apostles warn us against such an action?
4. Read Acts 26:19-20. What do these verses tell us about *conversion*?
5. During the times of the great Evangelical Awakenings in the 18th century both the Calvinistic preachers (the early Awakenings being primarily Calvinistic) and the evangelical Arminians (Wesleyans) preached the lordship of Christ, repentance and conversion, and believed in the absolute necessity of a work of the Holy Spirit in salvation. Neither position would accept a professor as truly converted without evidence of holiness of life. Read, reflect and comment on Romans 6:22-23.

6. Please read and comment on this paragraph, keeping in mind that there is a difference between works of the law and works of faith (that spring from faith).

“The question is not whether good works are necessary to salvation, but in what way are they necessary. As the inevitable outworking of saving faith they are necessary for salvation. As the meritorious ground of justification, they are not necessary or acceptable.”

Do you agree with this paragraph? Why or Why not?

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(NIV) New International Version

Easy to Read Version

John MacArthur

The Amplified Bible

Revised Standard Version

Wrongly Dividing the Word of Truth

Gerstner, p. 210

Lordship Salvation:

Some crucial questions and answers

Robert Lescelius