

Are You a Cultural Christian?

Not everyone who says to me “Lord, Lord” shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven (Matt. 7:21)

Our Lord’s warning here should terrify us all. He continues:

Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’ (Matt. 7:22-23)

We note:

1. Those shocked on Judgment Day will be professing Christians, not atheists, Muslims, or Buddhists;
2. They had prophesied, cast out demons, and performed “many wonders” in Christ’s name.
3. *Many* will claim such feats. Consequently,
4. If many make such claims yet are excluded, how many more professing Christians with lesser achievements will be surprised?

What did they all have in common? *They did not do the will of the Father* (v. 21). That’s not just those who preach a false Jesus. There is more than one way to “practice lawlessness” (v. 23).

Israel’s sin in Elijah’s day was not that they denied God entirely but that they added Baal to their Yahweh worship. Elijah challenged them “How

long will you go limping with two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; if Baal, follow him.” (1 Kings 18:21) There are many professing Christians today – I’ll call them “cultural Christians” - who follow Christ and something else. Any “something else” is an idol, and idol worshipers shall not inherit the kingdom (1 Cor. 6:9, Gal. 5:19, Rev. 21:8).

This series will examine Cultural Christian symptoms. I suggest that any of these will keep you out of the Kingdom.

Be zealous to make your calling and election sure (2 Pet. 1:10)

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