

- The solution to the “His Will – My Will” dilemma is a cross.

Mark 8:34 (CEV) “Jesus then told the crowd and the disciples to come closer, and he said: If any of you want to be my followers [my disciples], you must forget about yourself. You must take up your cross and follow me.”

2. HIS GRACE - MY WORKS

Matthew 7:22 “On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’”

- **Key Thought:** The miracles that God chooses to perform do not validate the spiritual condition of the object or the vessel He uses.

Deuteronomy 13:1-3 “Someday a prophet may come along who is able to perform miracles or tell what will happen in the future. Then the prophet may say, ‘Let’s start worshiping some new gods—some gods that we know nothing about. If the prophet says this, don’t listen! The LORD your God will be watching to find out whether or not you love him with all your heart and soul.’”

- Religious works is the playground of Deception. The solution to the “His Grace – My Works” dilemma is God’s grace alone.

3. HIS AUTHORITY - MY NATURE

Matthew 7:23 “And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’”

Galatians 5:17 “For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want.”

Romans 8:12 (NIV) “We have an obligation—but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it.”

- The solution to this dilemma is the submission of our soul to God’s spirit in us.

Galatians 5:16 “If you are guided by the Spirit, you won’t obey your selfish desires.”

“DIGGING DEEPER”

For personal or small group study

Week of July 13, 2008

TODAY’S FOCUS

1. In one sentence, summarize the main thought that the Holy Spirit revealed to you through the message.
2. What do the truths about God that we discovered today say to you about God’s ways? His values?
3. Do the truths of Matthew 7:21-23 incite feelings of fear or disappointment? Be honest with God about your immediate reaction.
4. Before going on — take 3 to 5 minutes of silent prayer allowing God to prepare your heart.

GETTING THE POINT

1. Was there anything that shocked you about the people Jesus described in the main text?
2. What kind of perspective of God’s Kingdom do you think the people in the passage live by?
3. Read Matthew 7:24-27 and discuss the passage in light of the message today? How do these two scenarios complement one another?
4. How does this message apply to your life? How does it impact your perspective of God’s Kingdom? What is one action step you can extract from the message today that you can put into action this week?

A LOOK INSIDE

When studying a small passage such as the one we looked at today, it is very important to survey the context by looking at the surrounding Scriptures. The Sermon on the Mount, in its entirety, is found in Matthew 5-7.

Since 32 AD, when the Sermon on the Mount was given, and today, man has been confusing the relationship of our works to the condition of our spirit. It’s the whole “chicken-or-the-egg” question. In a spiritual sense, the question is “Can you truly produce divine fruit from works that are generated in the soul or flesh?” Or is it the other way around - where the fire of God igniting our spirit produces genuine acts of spiritual worship?

In our passage, Christ identified this misconception so prevalent in the Jewish religious culture, as well as our culture today. It is a lesson we need to be alert to as we pursue a love relationship with Him and our transcendent purpose.

Welcome to New Life !

We are very pleased you are here. We sincerely hope you will be especially aware of God's presence as we worship. If this is your first time to worship with us, here is what you can expect:

Worship in Singing & Giving

- We leave how to worship up to you as an individual. During **singing** worship, you are free to connect with God in whatever biblical way that expresses your heart's adoration. Some may remain seated, others stand, kneel, clap or lift their hands.
- If you would like to receive personal **prayer** during worship with singing, you may go to one of the Prayer Teams located at the back of the sanctuary.
- Invitation is given for **tithes and offerings**. If you are our guest, please do not feel obligated to contribute when God's tithes and offerings are received.

Worship in Sharing God's Love

Expressions of greeting and God's love are extended to all, especially to our guests.

Worship in Meditating on God's Word

Teaching from the Bible for about 35 minutes.

We encourage you to use our **staffed Nursery** [which has a private nursing room] and **Children's Churches** during the service. Please ask an usher for assistance in locating the various rooms.

{turn page over}

Pastor Chris Puccini

July 13, 2008

"ALERT: You May Want to Hear This"
Matthew 7:21-23

FOCUS FOR THE DAY ... Kingdom perspectives from Jesus'
Sermon on the Mount warning us about spiritual deception.

Two of the greatest needs of all mankind:

1. To be loved.
 2. To have a transcendent purpose.
- Fulfilling this supreme love need can only be realized in an intimate relationship with God.
 - Transcendent = extraordinary; going beyond ordinary limits; supreme; going beyond the here-and-now.
 - The advancement of our transcendent purpose is in finding and doing the will of God. We were created with an internal longing to hear our Creator utter one phrase to us ... **"Well done, good and faithful servant."**
Matthew 7:21a "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven ..."
 - Jesus identifies two of the camps of people who will face God: Truth and Deception. Deception is the perception of truth.

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV) "For it is by grace (undeserved favor) you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast."

Matthew 7:21-23 (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. 22 On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' 23 And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'"

THREE AREAS OF TENSION:

1. HIS WILL – MY WILL

- Fulfilling His will is the pathway to fulfilling our two supreme desires - Love and Purpose.

John 14:21 (NLT) "Those who accept my commandments and obey them are the ones who love me. And because they love me, my Father will love them. And I will love them and reveal myself to each of them."