

THE “WHO TOLD YOU?” SERIES

A STUDY IN DISCERNING THE VOICES OF OUR DAY

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

Who Told You

That You Are Going To Heaven? – Part 2

Discerning the voices of our day and knowing what to do about what you hear.

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Development, Preparation, Maturity, Discipleship

“Who Told You That You Are Going To Heaven?”

Matthew 7:22-23

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?” **23** And then I will declare to them, “I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!”

1.) What is the Gospel message?

1a.) The Gospel is God’s word to man

1b.) The Gospel is God’s work in man

1c.) The Gospel is God’s way for man

Shall We Stand Together In Responsive Reading of His Word?

John 3:14-21

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, **15** that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. **16** For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. **17** For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. **18** “He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. **19** And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. **20** For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. **21** But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.”

It was on September 18, 1793 that the cornerstone for the U.S. Capitol in Washington DC was laid by President George Washington, then, two years later while still under construction, on July 2, 1795, The Boston Federal Orrery Newspaper printed the following:

Washington City, June 19, 1795

“It is with much pleasure that we discover the rising consequence of our infant city. Public worship is now regularly administered at the Capitol, every Sunday morning at 11 o'clock by the Reverend Mr. Ralph.”

The approval of the Capitol for church services was given

by both the House and the Senate, with approval being given by Speaker of the House, Theodore Sedgwick, and Senate approval being given by the President of the Senate, then, Thomas Jefferson. Interestingly, Jefferson's approval came while he was still officially the Vice- President but after he had just been elected President.

<http://1x6t50t4x7bko6n03qfy7211-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/Capitol-When-First-Occupied-by-Congress.jpg>

The Joint Houses of Government “Offered Worship to the Lord.”

What is today, no doubt, almost universally ignored is the fact that;
“The US Capitol building had been used as a church years
prior to it being occupied by Congress.”

<http://www.thewordmp3.com/picts/OrreryText.jpg>

<https://wallbuilders.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Church-in-the-U.S.-Capitol-9.jpg>

Thomas Jefferson attended church at the Capitol while he was Vice President, and he continued to do so throughout his entire presidency. The first Capitol church service that Jefferson attended as President of the United States was on January 3, 1802. And the sermon was preached by Jefferson's good friend, the Reverend John Leland,

But what was “Best of All” was that The Gospel of Jesus Christ was preached every Sunday with power and conviction – and those sermons became a matter of public record preserved at The National Archives in Washington DC.

That Great Tradition of God's Word being preached among the People had long been in effect in early America,

https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/9/92/Sinners_in_the_Hands_of_an_Angry_God_by_Jonathan_Edwards_1741.jpg/200pxSinners_in_the_Hands_of_an_Angry_God_by_Jonathan_Edwards_1741.jpg

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sinners_in_the_Hands_of_an_Angry_God#/media/File:JE_Sinners_in_the_Hands_Monument.jpg

That Gospel-Centered and Christ-Honoring Sermon was so powerful that people outside the church on the street were overcome by the sense of their own sinfulness and cried out to God. A monument there in Enfield, Connecticut commemorates to this day, the location where this sermon was preached.

What Does That History have to do With us Today? – Just this...
That the power of the Gospel, then, is what transformed a generation of people. In turn, their new lives brought forth a new nation of people unlike any the world had ever seen before.

That same Gospel is as Powerful now as it was then.
That pure, unadulterated Gospel of God is Missing in our day.

“Who Told You That You Are Going To Heaven?”

2.) What is the first step towards salvation?

2a.) It is Looking into the mirror

**This is the beginning for you.
What happens when Jesus Christ comes to a man?**

James 1:22-25

But be **doers** of the word, and **not hearers only**, deceiving yourselves. **23** For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a **mirror**; **24** for he **observes** (*searches for imperfections*) himself, goes away, and immediately **forgets what kind of man he was.**

Isaiah 45:22a

Look to Me, and be saved.

(It doesn't cost a thing to look. Anyone can look. A king, a pauper can look.
If called upon today - would you decide to look, are you willing to look?)

#1

The Deep, Personal Stirrings or Awakenings of Salvation

The Prevenient Grace of God

Regarding The Wooing of the Holy Spirit

John 6:44c

No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me **draws** him;

The Drawing up of the Net

This same Greek word is used in **John 21:6** for the pulling or drawing up or drag out of the sea a great net.

The Arresting of Paul and Silas

The same word is used in **Acts 16:19** describing Paul and Silas being “dragged violently” into the marketplace for questioning.

It pictures the Violent, Laying-Hold-of the Heart and Mind of a Man.

The man's soul is being awakened to think clearly and his human spirit is jolted for the first time in his life.

Think about this for a moment.

We all came to Christ because of a “**Genesis Thought**”

or first thought. **1.** “My life has been really good and all this couldn't have just happened”. For some of you, **2.** it was a series of issues and events that got your attention. And still for others, **3.** it was a great crisis of faith that caused to you cry out.

John 6:65

And He said, “Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me **unless it has been granted to him by My Father.**”

John 14:17

The Spirit of truth, whom the world **cannot receive**, because it neither **sees Him** nor **knows Him**; You know Him, for He dwells with you and shall be in you.

Ephesians 1:13

In Him you also (2) **trusted**, after you (1) **heard** the word of truth, the gospel of your (3) salvation; in whom also, having **believed**, you were (4) **sealed** with the Holy Spirit of promise,

What is the first step towards salvation?

2b.) It is Getting alone with yourself

**What happens when a man comes to Jesus Christ?
This is a serious issue today.**

Getting alone with only you is Unnerving.

**Many are Busy to the point that you're never alone or quiet before God, -
- fearful to hear from Him or terrified that He might speak.**

Deception isn't always painted black or wearing a mask.

It can manifest itself as; (1) “Christian busyness about “spiritual things”,
(2) church endeavors, (3) meetings, (4) outreaches and....

**Did You Know That There Are People Hiding from God While Sitting in
Church?**

“There is no place to hide when you're seeking to avoid God.”

- Jack Hibbs

**What happens when a man comes to Jesus Christ?
The Quick, Deep and Correct Answer is;
“Personal Repentance”**

Isaiah 6:1-5

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. 2 Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. 3 And one cried to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!" 4 And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke... 5a So I said: "**Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips...** 5c For (because) my eyes have seen the King, The LORD of hosts."

For Every True Follower of Christ,

there's an awareness that is not of this world. There's an awareness that "God is totally other than" who and what I am – But this God loves me, He cares for me, He's calling me. He's in my head and there is an increasing awareness that what's happening is "not of this world".

John 16:8-11

And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: **9** of sin, because they do not believe in Me; **10** of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; **11** of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

What Just Might be The Greatest Display of Repentance in the Bible,

Luke 15:17-19

"But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! **18** I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, **19** and **I am no longer worthy** to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.'" **20a** "And he arose and went to his father.

So, who are you anyway?

(1) There's the person you want people to think of you are. (2) There's the person you want yourself to be. (3) There is the person GOD knows you are.

Watch out for "churches" and "church leaders" who seek to re-invent the Gospel to meet our felt-needs.

2 Corinthians 13:5-6

Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? - unless indeed you are disqualified. 6 But I trust that you will know that we are not disqualified.

Philippians 2:12b

Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;

What is the first step towards salvation?

2c.) It is Deciding to be honest before God

But isn't God a God of Grace?

After all, I prayed the prayer. I went forward. I was baptized.
But what has happened to you since then?

Answer:

Let me make this as clear as I possibly can, Salvation happens at the speed of light.

Romans 10:8-10 But what does it say? *"The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart"* (that is, the word of faith which we preach): **9** that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. **10** For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

This Salvation, if life here on earth gives you one more hour to live it – Is a Salvation that Changes a man forever. It is an on-going relationship that develops day after day, week after week, month after month, year after year
- - with Jesus Christ and His Lordship until...

As the psalmist writes

Psalm 17:15

As for me, I will see Your face in righteousness;
I shall be satisfied when I awake in Your likeness.

For some here today it's time for you to "Decide"
to "get up and leave the falsehood of religion or morality or _____."

The time has come for you to present your life to Christ Jesus in honest
and humble submission to Him.

1 Samuel 15:22-23

So Samuel said: "Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the LORD? **Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams.** **23** For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He also has rejected you..."

Listen; someone may have told you that you're saved
but has there ever been any change in your lifestyle, in your thinking, in your private, personal
existence?

Romans 3:23

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
(At our best, we've gotten 99% on the test. That means we failed.)

Romans 5:8

But God demonstrates His own love toward us,
in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

(If Jesus had to die for us, how could we earn our way to heaven?)

I can tell you today with all authority based upon the word of God that,
(1) if there has been no transformation in your life, (2) if there has been no driving burden to
get closer to God, or if (3) there has been no progress regarding the things of God in your life
– then I seriously doubt if you have ever met the risen and resurrected Christ of the Bible.

Are you a gambler by nature? Do you play the lottery?

Is Lost Wages, I mean, Las Vegas a temptation to you?

(But Pastor, it's such a thrill to take the money that God has given to me to
use to His glory, to take that money and then blow it on the chance of winning.)

In closing, I have a question for you;

Is there a limit to just how far you would take your thrill seeking?

John 5:25-29

Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will
hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live. **26** For as the Father has life in
Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, **27** and has given Him authority to
execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man. **28** Do not marvel at this; for the hour
is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice **29** and come forth—those who
have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection
of condemnation.

>>> **The Cross, The Christ, The Call** <<<

Come Forward for Prayer

End of Study

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