

SUGGESTED FURTHER READING: John 6:60-71

Here is heart-piercing application. Our Lord turns from false prophets to false professors. How useless a mere outward profession of Christianity is! Not all that profess themselves and call themselves Christians shall be saved.

Let us take notice of this. It requires far more than most people seem to think necessary to save a soul. We may be baptized in the name of Christ and boast confidently of our ecclesiastical privileges. We may possess head knowledge and be quite satisfied with our own state. We may even be preachers and teachers of others and do many wonderful works in connection with our church. But all this time are we practically doing the will of our Father in heaven? Do we truly repent, truly believe and live holy and humble lives? If not, in spite of all our privileges and profession we shall miss heaven at last and be ever cast away. We shall hear those awful words: 'I never knew you: depart from me.'

The Day of Judgement will reveal strange things. The hopes of many who were thought great Christians while they lived will be utterly confounded. The rottenness of their religion will be exposed and put to shame before the whole world. It will then be proved that being saved means more than making a profession. We must practise our Christianity as well as profess it. Let us often think of that great day. Let us often judge ourselves, that we be not judged and condemned by our Lord. Whatever else we are, let us aim at being real, true and sincere.

FOR MEDITATION: It is vital in these days that we realize that gifts do not indicate conversion. A man may have gifts and be damned. Balaam was a prophet of God (Num. 22:18-19), but was killed by the Israelites as an evil man (Num. 31:8,16) and is always condemned in subsequent Scriptures (2 Peter 2:15; Jude 11; Rev. 2:14). Judas was an apostle (Matt. 10:4), with gifts of healing and 'exorcism' (Matt. 10:1), yet a traitor (Matt. 10:4) and a devil (John 6:70-71). As gifts cannot save they are no basis for fellowship and no sure guide to the possession of saving grace.