

On The Rock: 2

It's Up To You – Work Out Your Own Salvation

Matthew 16.13-19

This was a pivotal moment in Peter's life – He was an impetuous and impulsive man and often spoke 'out of turn', but here he speaks with all the conviction he has, he confesses Jesus as the Christ.

Who do you say that I am? A personal question from the Lord to us – a key question. What think ye of the Christ? (Matthew 22.42) - another key question from the Lord.

Everybody has their opinion as to He is. But who do you say that I am?

He is the Christ, we confess this with conviction, what the Father has revealed to us.

This is a personal question to us and demands a personal response from us. We cannot get to heaven on the back of somebody else's salvation experience.

Who do men say I am? - it does not matter what others say – your salvation, your walk with God is personal – it's up to you!

Philippians 2.12 - “work out your own salvation with fear and trembling” - you can't blame others, your parents, children, friends or pastor.

Do not judge Christianity on the example of Christians but rather the example of Jesus Christ.

We must make sure our own live is right with God.

What Does It Mean To Work Out Your Own Salvation

1. Saved by Grace, not of yourselves, not of works – Ephesians 2.8-9
 - we cannot earn salvation
 - we receive it as a gift from God
2. Your decision to follow Jesus is personal – John 21.19-21
 - It has nothing to do with works, status or family
 - Peter was more concerned with what would happen to John but Jesus told him that his walk was personal – take care of your own walk
3. Build yourself up – Jude 1.20
 - as in the natural so in the things of God

- babies are dependent on their mothers for food – but they grow and develop to the point where they feed themselves, then later they support themselves. We need to grow and we do that with the Word of God (1 Peter 2.2) - meditating and studying.

Follow God's Word - (Matthew 16.17-19)

'On this rock.. gates of Hades cannot prevail against it' – the rock is impenetrable, the rock is the word of God and the gates of hell cannot prevail against the Word. Jesus defeated satan with the Word (Matthew 4/Luke 4)

Matthew 7.24 “whoever hears these sayings of Mine and does them.. wise man who built on ROCK”

Jesus will build HIS church on what God has revealed – God's Word; for us living in the 21st century it is the written word.

2 Kings 19.30 / Isaiah 37.31 if the foundation is good then the building will be good. Those who have good roots will bear fruit.

Psalm 1.1 We do not follow the world's ways, systems or counsel but we follow what the Word of God says.

Who do men say? - it's not about what men (professionals, politicians, even pastors) say.. What does God say?

We have to come to the point that God's is true. Romans 3.4 “...let God be true and every man a liar”

Follow God, Follow His Word – this Royal Law, these lively Oracles of God

“At the coronation ceremony of Queen Elizabeth II sixty years ago (1953), the Queen placed her hand on a Bible as she knelt and promised before God to perform her solemn oath. The ceremony continued as these words were spoken to her:

“Our gracious Queen: To keep your Majesty ever mindful of the Law and the Gospel of God as the Rule for the whole life and government of Christian princes, we present you with this book, the most valuable thing that this world affords. Here is wisdom; this is the Royal Law; these are the lively Oracles of God” “ (from 'Arise' by Kingsley N Armstrong, ch.6, pg.92)

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