

Are There Few Who Are Saved?

Some of the hardest verses that people wrestle with are **Matthew 7:13-14; 21-23**. The concept of only few entering heaven and the majority being lost does not fit their concept of a loving God. How does one understand the importance of that teaching? We must look at the Bible for the answer.

A survey question was asked several years ago, “Can a good person who is not of your religious faith go to heaven or attain salvation, or not? Only 12% said no. Most people believe those of different faiths will be saved regardless of what they believe or teach. A similar question was asked of Jesus (**Luke 13:23-24**). What does the Bible say about salvation?

At a time when the wickedness of man was great and every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually, Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord (**Genesis 6:5, 8**). Noah build the ark by faith (**Hebrews 11:7**). How? Noah did according to all that God commanded him, so he did (**Genesis 6:22**). Only eight souls were saved (**Genesis 7:21-23; 1 Peter 3:20; 2 Peter 2:5**). The rest of the population did not know until the flood came and took them all away (**Matthew 24:37-39**).

Only three souls escaped the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (**Genesis 19:24-30**). The rest of the people were made an example to those who afterward would live ungodly (**2 Peter 2:6; Jude 7**). The wicked are reserved under punishment for the day of judgment (**2 Peter 2:9-10**). However, if those people had heard the message that Jesus preached during His life, they would have repented (**Matthew 24:23-24**). What about us who have the completed revelation of God?

Only two men out of 603,550 men over the age of 20 were permitted to enter the land of Canaan (**Numbers 14:26-32; cf. 1:45-46**). With the rest of them God was not well pleased (**1 Corinthians 10:5**). What happened to them are set for examples that we should not follow the same way of rebellion against God (**1 Corinthians 10:1-11**).

The world wants to say that it really does not matter what you believe. The familiar phrase is often used, “We are all going to the same place, but just going down different roads.” Jesus clearly taught that no one comes to the Father except through Him (**John 14:6**). There is no salvation found outside of Jesus Christ (**Acts 4:12**).

Cornelius was a devout religious person who need salvation (**Acts 10:1-6; 11:14**). The Jews on the day of Pentecost needed salvation (**Acts 2:5; 36-38**). The Ethiopian returning home from worshipping at Jerusalem needed salvation (**Acts 8:27-28; 35-38**). Lydia, a worshipper of God who kept the Sabbath, needed salvation (**Acts 16:13-14**). Saul who thought he was doing the Lord’s will needed salvation (**Acts 26:9; Galatians 1:14; Acts 22:16**).

Jesus warned of those who believed in Him but were lost (**Matthew 7:21-23**). The one who hears the words and Jesus and does them is a wise man (**Matthew 7:24**). Jesus is the author of salvation to all who obey Him (**Hebrews 5:9**). Why would we call Jesus, “Lord, Lord” and not do what He says (**Luke 6:46**)?

Just to believe in Jesus is not enough. The demons believe, yet tremble (**James 2:19**). They understand that they face torment in the last day (**Matthew 8:29**). Some believe Jesus but were unwilling to confess Him because they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God (**John 12:42-43**). We must abide in the teaching of Jesus (**John 8:30-32**).

God wants all men to be saved (**1 Timothy 2:3-6; 2 Peter 3:9**). God provided His Son as the perfect sacrifice (**Ephesians 5:2; Hebrews 9:2**). Jesus is the perfect Mediator (**1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 8:6; 9:15; 12:24**). But will we believe and obey His Son? “Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation” (**2 Corinthians 6:1-2**).

Something to think about!

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