

# Are You Sure You're Ready?

by Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

**Matthew 7:21-22**, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?"

Those that the Lord was referring to in this passage thought without doubt that they were ready to meet the Lord and go to heaven. He pointed out that they were not as ready as they thought. Do we sometimes let our thinking get in the way of living for the Lord? In **2 Kings 5** we see that Naaman thought one thing while the prophet Elijah gave him counsel from God which was very different. Only when he obeyed the instructions from the Lord was he healed. Our thoughts are often no better than Naaman's were. We think and try to figure out what we think is acceptable, but it may not be what the Lord wants us to do. **Isaiah 55:8-9**, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts." We

had better be careful and never let out thinking take the place of God's instruction.

The Lord Jesus could see that man would put his own ideas in place of the doctrines of God. In fact they were already doing it when he walked here on earth. Look at how they got around the command to honor and help their parents. In **Matthew 15:1-9** Jesus rebuked the Pharisees for their teaching on this. He called them hypocrites and that they worshipped in vain as they taught the commandments of men. They worshipped and thought they were close to God, but the Lord said they were in error. It is to be hoped that at least some of them accepted the truth of what Jesus said. I hope they don't wait until the judgment day to find out and to admit that he spoke the truth.

Here in America it would appear that so many have come to the conclusion that if they go to some service on a Sunday morning then they have done some great religious service to God. What have we done in such a case? At such a service was the Lord worshipped in spirit and in truth as he said should be done? Or was everything planned out, practiced, and everything done according to a preconceived and approved plan? Did the Lord feel that we had a great service, or did we think that it was great? Through the years I have heard so many stories of ministers being told that they must not say anything that would offend

people. Some that dared to call something a sin against God have been told to leave and not to return. Yet, those in control of such a congregation would never think that they were doing anything wrong.

Didn't Jesus himself say that there would be those at the judgment that would speak of their works thinking that they proved their righteousness? Sure they had good works to boast of and could show that they had religion, but their hearts were not right in the sight of the Lord. He wants his people to love him and each other and to walk in faith with God. If we have anything to boast of it is that we have such a great savior who gave his life for us. Let us boast of him and what he has done for us all. Salvation comes to us through faith in the Lord Jesus and never in anything that we have done.

Considering good works, think about it, do we really have anything worthy of us boasting about? Some people, relatively few, have done some impressive things, at least impressive to men, but not to God. Most of us have done little more than go to church and try to live by God's commands. Some people that I have heard did more boasting of the bad things that they didn't do. Good for them if they have been able to avoid sins that others have fallen into. However good that we have lived we have nothing to brag about when we stand before God.

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## 423 Facts About The BIBLE BY JOHN LEHTI

This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the book of I Samuel intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times

**DAVID'S fighting courage**  
DAVID IS PREPARING FOR A BATTLE WITH THE PHILISTINES, IN WHICH HE IS GREATLY OUTNUMBERED - AND IN WHICH KING SAUL HOPES DAVID WILL BE KILLED....

IF WE STAND TO FIGHT THE PHILISTINES ON THIS GENTLE SLOPE, O DAVID, WE WILL BE OVER RUN BY THEIR VAST NUMBERS!

NO, NOW! DO WE NOT FIGHT THE BATTLE FOR THE LORD? WILL NOT THE LORD GIVE US STRENGTH AND WISDOM TO PREVAIL?!

HERE, ALONG THIS RIDGE, WILL WE DIG A PIT - TO HIDE MOST OF OUR MEN FROM THE EYE OF THE ENEMY!

LATER... NOW, OUR SHARP-EYED ARCHERS SHALL HIDE IN THIS PIT, WHILE THE REST OF US WILL STAND AT THE FOOT OF THE SLOPE!

WHEN THE PHILISTINE SEES OUR MEAGER NUMBERS, HE SHALL BECOME AS A BOLD LION WHICH RUNNETH AFTER THE LAMB!

BUT WHEN I CAUSE A BLAST TO BE BLOWN ON THE HORN - THEN EVERY MAN AND HIS BROTHER WHICH FLEETH BEFORE THE ENEMY SHALL FALL TO THE EARTH AND THE ARCHERS WILL ARISE FROM THEIR PIT TO GREET THE PHILISTINE WITH THE SHARP ARROWS OF THE LORD!

AND SO IT COMES TO PASS, AS THE PHILISTINE HORDE ADVANCES OVER THE COUNTRYSIDE....

BEHOLD! ISRAELITES! HOW FEW THEIR NUMBERS! HOW EASY TO SLAUGHTER!

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