

A False Hope

**Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church**  
**Matthew 7:21, "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. 22. 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? 23. And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."**  
It would seem that so many folks in our world have religion, and there are so many kinds to choose from. People argue about them, some fight in the name of their religion, killing and hating all those who are of a different belief. Yet, even among those who belong to a church that proclaims Jesus as Lord, there are those who feel "safe" because they have religion. What some fail to realize is that religion and salvation are two very different things.  
As I have mentioned before there are many religions in our world. Some feel that all are good if a person is sincere in his belief.

However, this is not what Jesus has said, but what men have decided. When Jesus walked the earth there were many different beliefs then just like today. Most nations had an idol that they worshipped, and some had several that they either made or had borrowed from their neighbors. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father; but by me." **John 12:6.** So just having a religion is not the same as having salvation.  
Jesus spoke about those who would claim to be saved by the works that they had done in his name. While the things that they had done might be good, they did not make the person saved. Instead of trusting in Jesus they trusted in their works. Good works are the fruits of a child of God, but they don't save a person. When a person is born again he doesn't try to do works to earn his salvation, he already has it.  
On the other hand it is sad to think that there are those who talk about "religion" more than they practice it. Someone said that talk is cheap. That statement is true because the words flow so easy but deeds and commitment take more effort. **James 2:18** says, "Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works."

How we live, our words and deeds, show what we have in our hearts. Our words are important as we try to tell others about Jesus and how to be saved. Then the deeds, or works, that we do, show what we really believe. It takes both words and deeds to show the right example to the world. While we may err at times, and there is nobody that doesn't, the life of a Christian will show him striving to walk with the Lord. If we err then we will repent and seek God's forgiveness, that is what a sincere Christian does. A hypocrite doesn't think that sin is a big deal and doesn't worry about it, or try to do better.  
The hypocrite has a false hope according to God's word. **Job 8:13.** This is true for all those who go their own way and forsake the commands of God. Religions that go by some man's commands instead of what God has said are leading away from the Lord, not to him. Many don't really know because they don't read and study the scriptures for themselves, they find it easier to take some man's word for it. Don't do this, it leads to destruction and your soul is too important to leave to chance. Trust in the Lord and his word, not in some false hope.

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September 12, 1999

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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

**SAMUEL AND SAUL**

SEEKING AID TO FIND HIS LOST ANIMALS, SAUL, WITH HIS SERVANT, HAS REACHED SAMUEL THE PROPHET IN RAMAH....

TELL ME, I PRAY THEE, WHERE THE PROPHET'S HOUSE IS?

I AM THE PROPHET! DO NOT FEAR FOR THINE ANIMALS—THEY ARE ALREADY FOUND!

GO UP BEFORE ME INTO THE HIGH PLACE FOR YE SHALL EAT WITH ME TODAY, AND TOMORROW I SHALL TELL THEE ALL THAT IS IN THINE HEART!

BUT I AM ONLY A BENJAMITE! IN THE LEAST FAMILY OF THE SMALLEST TRIBE OF ISRAEL! WHY, THEREFORE, DO YOU HONOR ME IN SUCH MANNER?

AND MUCH TO THE ASTONISHMENT OF SAUL AND HIS SERVANT, SAMUEL PUTS THEM IN THE CHIEF PLACE OF HONOR AT THE HIGH FEAST...

BEHOLD THE MAN WHOM I SPAKE TO THEE OF! THIS SAME SHALL REIGN OVER MY PEOPLE!

...AND, AS SAMUEL SEES SAUL, THE LORD SPEAKS IN HIS EAR...

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