

The Measure Of Christianity

Scripture: Matthew 7:21-23 NIV

Introduction

In the confusing myriad of standards set by the world to determine the measure of true Christianity, the scripture gives only one standard. The scriptural standard is that the true Christian obediently responds to God's will.

I. The invalid measure of "talking Christianity"

Matthew 7:22a NIV Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, ...

- A. God requires that we do more than verbalize His lordship
 - 1. If He is Lord, our priorities will change
 - 2. If He is Lord, our conduct will change
 - 3. If He is Lord, our conversation will change
- B. Our Christianity is not measured by spiritual gifts
 - 1. It is not enough to prophesy
 - 2. It is not enough to speak in tongues

II. The invalid measure of miraculous phenomenon

Matthew 7:22b NIV ...and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?"

- A. Not every miracle is of divine origin
 - 1. The magicians and sorcerers in Egypt -- Exodus 7
 - 2. Simon the sorcerer -- Acts 9:9-11
- B. Supernatural phenomenon does not reside exclusively with the Christian
 - 1. For every genuine, there is a counterfeit
 - 2. Satan uses the miraculous to deceive

III. The valid measure of obedience to God's will

Matthew 7:21 NIV Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

- A. God places a premium on His will
 - 1. The person who does His will glorifies God
 - 2. The person who does His will causes His kingdom to grow
- B. The person who refuses to do God's will is in rebellion
 - 1. Rebellion was the original sin
 - 2. Rebellion is the hallmark of Satan's kingdom
- C. You cannot be a Christian and be in rebellion