

Are You Right With God

1. I have been teaching now in 3 different places...through the book of Acts
 - a. I have been methodically been working my way through the day of Pentecost...when the 120 disciples of Christ...spoke in tongues
 - b. Acts 2:11 told us they were speaking...in actual foreign languages...or in tongues...of the wonderous workings of God
 - c. They were not speaking...the gospel...in tongues...we know this because Peter has to speak of the gospel later to them
 - d. The people who hear these disciples speaking in tongues...were the Jewish pilgrims who came to Jerusalem to celebrate the feast of Pentecost
 - e. This event...caused the pilgrims to react 3 different ways
 - f. Some were amazed...some perplexed...and some decided to mock what was going on...by accusing the disciples of being drunk
 - g. Before Peter even spells out the gospel to the pilgrims...Peter points out 5 things about Jesus...in his response to the accusation of being drunk
 - h. Peters first point out...that all the miracles that Jesus did while He was alive ...proves Jesus is the Son of the living God...their Messiah
 - i. The second point was that **both** Jesus's life...and His death...was predicted in scripture...Peter did this by quoting the prophetic scripture
 - j. The third point is the resurrection of Jesus was also predicted in scripture
 - k. Which leads to the fourth point...

1. Where the ascension of Jesus...is the Lord Jesus returning to the Father...to be exulted for His willingness to obey the Father
 - m. The final point...number 5...Peter is declaring...that the very Jesus they killed and rejected...is both the Messiah and the Lord
 - n. Today all I want to cover...is the **first** result of Peter's speech
2. Acts 2:37 Peter's words pierced their hearts, and they said to him and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?"
 - a. Notice what happens...
3. Slide... Peter's words pierced their hearts
 - a. When you think of the definition of the word piercing...it means to make a small hole in a part of the body...in this case the heart
 - b. It wasn't but 50 days ago...the same people were shouting to crucify Jesus
 - c. But now...because Peter is able to point out these 5 things about Jesus...some of the Pilgrims...realize they missed something about Jesus
 - d. These words...that Peter speaks...pierces their hearts...which causes them to see they are not right with God...that they are lacking something
 - e. Realize...all Peter has done...is showed them...in scripture...who Jesus really is
 - f. Peter hasn't spoken anything about the gospel of faith or salvation yet
 - g. They somehow...suddenly...after listening to Peter quote the word of God...they realize they are lacking something
 - h. These Jewish people have been going through the religious motions...for centuries

- i. Visiting the temple on the feast days...making sacrifices...taking the mark of circumcision...but still...their hearts were still hard to God
 - j. These devout Jews believed they were safe...because they were Jews... God's chosen people...and they did their religious duties
 - k. Paul points out the problem with their thinking
4. Rom 2:25-29, 25 The Jewish ceremony of circumcision has value only if you obey God's law. But if you don't obey God's law, you are no better off than an uncircumcised Gentile. 26 And if the Gentiles obey God's law, won't God declare them to be his own people? 27 In fact, uncircumcised Gentiles who keep God's law will condemn you Jews who are circumcised and possess God's law but don't obey it. 28 For you are not a true Jew just because you were born of Jewish parents or because you have gone through the ceremony of circumcision. 29 No, a true Jew is one whose **heart is right** with God. And true circumcision is not merely obeying the letter of the law; rather, it is a **change of heart** produced by God's Spirit. And a person with a **changed heart** seeks praise from God, not from people.
5. Slide...A true Jew is one whose heart is right with God
6. Slide...A changed heart is produced by God's Spirit
- a. The changed heart is what God wants...God wants a heart...that is so changed...that causes evidence in their life...through their actions
 - b. Hebrews 11...list some great people of faith
 - c. If we take the time to read their stories...what we will find is...their actions of faith were the result of their changed hearts

- d. Their changed hearts were open to God...even when they didn't understand
- e. Their willingness to move in faith...was a result of the condition of their changed heart
- f. The Bible is also full of stories of people...who did **not** want to change their heart...such as 1st and 2nd Kings
- g. Even after the 10 plagues in Egypt...the parting of the Red Sea
- h. Only 2 of the 12 spies were willing to trust God to enter the promised land
- i. Even while the Jews were in the wilderness...in the very physical presence of God...as pillar of fire by night...and a cloud by day...
- j. As Moses climbed mount Sinai...to fellowship with God
- k. While these guys were waiting for Moses to return...they got impatient
- l. They build a worldly pagan golden calf...as they worshiped the old things of the world...rather than trusting God for the new thing
- m. What they missed...is God was doing something in their life...to prepare them for the blessing that God wanted to give them...the promised land
- n. The condition of their hearts...caused them to complain...and want to bring worldly Idols...into the worship...that belonged to God
- o. Moses comes down from Mount Sinai...the second time...with the Ten Commandments...and the blue prints for the tabernacle
- p. The Jews whose hearts were right...worshiped God properly...and the ones whose hearts were hard...they didn't

- q. In Acts 2...Peter is explaining the good thing God is doing...for them...
through Jesus...the Lord and Messiah
 - r. For some...something changed...their hearts were pierced...and they
realized they were not right with God
 - s. We will find out later...that only 3000 were added to the church that day
...3000 out of...this is a guess...of 1 million Jewish pilgrims
 - t. That's .003% or 3 out of 1000 who were in Jerusalem
7. Matt 7:13-23, 13 "You can enter God's Kingdom only through the narrow gate.
The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that
way. 14 But the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult, and only a
few ever find it.
8. 15 "Beware of false prophets who come disguised as harmless sheep but are really
vicious wolves. 16 You can identify them by their fruit, that is, (How) by the way
they act. Can you pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? 17 A good
tree produces good fruit, and a bad tree produces bad fruit. 18 A good tree can't
produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can't produce good fruit. 19 So every tree that
does not produce good fruit is chopped down and thrown into the fire. 20 Yes,
just as you can identify a tree by its fruit, so you can identify people (HOW) by
their actions.
9. 21 "Not everyone who calls out to me, 'Lord! Lord!' will enter the Kingdom of
Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter. 22
On judgment day many will say to me, 'Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name
and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.'

23 But I will reply, 'I never knew you. Get away from me, (why) you who break God's laws.'

10. Slide...These people who cried Lord Lord believed they were safe

- a. These Christians...who the Lord didn't know...were just like the Jews who thought they were safe through circumcision
- b. In order to inherit the kingdom of God...Jesus said you must be born again
- c. Paul said you must be...a person with a changed heart...
- d. And Jesus said the gate is narrow...
- e. It is as simple as reading 1st and 2nd kings...when the kings had a reverent fear of the Lord...and did...in action...do what was pleasing to the Lord
- f. Their kingdom was blessed...but as soon as they started to bring the worldly idols into the kingdom...well you know
- g. Christians...don't be like the religious Jewish people who are counting on the wrong things for your salvation
- h. Such as...I go to this church...I keep this law...I obeyed this ordinance...I can quote scripture...I said the magic salvation prayer
- i. The truth is...salvation is a changed heart...it has the evidence of a changed life...because you are a new creation in Christ
- j. This is why Jesus is a narrow gate...the truth and the life
- k. But in order to accept Jesus's free gift of salvation...something has to change in our hearts first...which causes our lives to be radically changed
- l. Listen to what Jesus says to the church of Laodicea

11. Rev 3:14-22, 14 "Write this letter to the angel of the church in Laodicea. This is the message from the one who is the Amen—the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God's **new creation**: 15 "I know all the things you do, that you are neither hot nor cold. I wish that you were one or the other! 16 But since you are like lukewarm water, neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth! 17 You say, 'I am rich. I have everything I want. I don't need a thing!' And you don't realize that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked. 18 So I advise you to buy gold from me—gold that has been purified by fire. Then you will be rich. Also buy white garments from me so you will not be shamed by your nakedness, and ointment for your eyes so you will be able to see. 19 I correct and discipline everyone I love. So be diligent **and turn from your indifference**. (or lack of interest) (or your weak self-justifications)
12. 20 "Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends. 21 Those who are **victorious** (**victory over being lukewarm**) will sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious (**by obeying the Father**) and sat with my Father on his throne.
13. 22 "Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what he is saying to the churches."
14. Slide...These lukewarm Christians...believe they are doing right
- a. These church attending people...believed they were doing right...and they thought they were safe...in their eyes
 - b. While Jesus is knocking at the door...looking for those who desire to be hot for God...victorious...overcomers...a new creation

- c. The disciples asked Jesus...how is it possible for man to get eternal life...
- d. Jesus replies...it is impossible for man...but with God all things are possible
- e. I want to preach sermons like Peter...that pierce our hearts
- f. That cause us to consider...that we might not be right with God
- g. That a message may cause us to get on our knees and ask Jesus...to soften our hearts...to change our hearts...and our actions will start to change
- h. Why did I say all of this...I do have a point...listen up
- i. The Jewish pilgrims...who heard the 120 disciples speak in tongues...all thought they were good to go...because they were Jews
- j. The people who cried Lord Lord thought they were good to go
- k. The lukewarm people in the church of Laodicea thought they were good to go
- l. But yet...it wasn't until the Jewish pilgrims...heard Peter's words...that the Holy Spirit actually penetrated their hard hearts
- m. It was then...only after hearing these words...that they realized they were not right with God
- n. So let me ask us this morning...what is the condition of our hearts today
- o. If you are counting on your church attendance...your giving of tithes...your quoting of the Bible verses...or baptism...
- p. Or saying you are a Christian...but have no works...with no evidence of a changed heart ...or a changed life...then this message is for you
- q. If you are feeling something in your heart right now...then respond

r. Jesus told us...we will know the condition of our hearts by our actions

15. Gal 5:19-21, 19 When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, 21 envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life **will not** inherit the Kingdom of God.

16. Jer 17:9-10, 9 "The human heart is the most deceitful of all things, and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is? 10 But I, the Lord, **search all hearts** and examine secret motives. I give all people their due rewards, according to what their actions deserve."

- a. How many of us...know the sin that Satan actually committed...the only sin Satan committed was in his heart
- b. God saw what was in Satan's heart...that Satan wanted to be like God
- c. This is the same sin of Adam and Eve...to eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil so they could be like God
- d. We have the opportunity...to have everything Satan wanted
- e. We were made in the very image of God...so we look like God
- f. We have the ability to let the Holy Spirit change our sinful hearts...so that the Son of God...will now desire to now live in our hearts
- g. But we have an enemy...who doesn't want us to experience this change
- h. Satan wants our hearts to remain the way Adam's was...so he tries to convince us to not change

- i. Or convince us...this all the change we can do...Satan wants to keep us from experiencing everything Jesus has for us
- j. An unchanged heart...won't let Jesus in...it won't surrender the world...for the things of Jesus
- k. It said in Jeremiah verse 10...But I, the Lord, search all hearts and examine secret motives.
- l. I give all people their due rewards, according **to what** their actions deserve."
- m. As man falls farther away from God...the world will return to the days of Noah...just like Jesus said in Matthew
- n. God said in Genesis 6:9...that Noah was a righteous man, the only blameless person living on earth at the time
- o. Genesis 6:9 also tells us why Noah was blameless...because Noah walked in close fellowship with God.
- p. When God offered Noah an opportunity to not face the coming judgement ...that God was planning to pour out on the earth
- q. Heb 11 says...Noah obeyed God...because Noah took God's warning of coming judgement seriously
- r. Heb 11:7 says...It was by faith that Noah built a boat to save his family from the flood
- s. Just like we read in the book of Revelation...about the people inside the church of Laodicea
- t. They believed they have already have answered the call of God

- u. But yet Jesus says...you haven't...but if you are willing to answer the door...then we can get to know each other
 - v. The people who casting out demons in the name of Jesus...miracles in the name of Jesus...will be saying Lord Lord
 - w. The pilgrims who didn't respond to Peter's words...and allow the piercing of their hearts...because they thought they were safe
 - x. All of this is an attempt of Satan...to have you think you are ok...so you don't become the real deal...Jesus freak
 - y. The church that is the real danger to Satan's plan...is the kind of church...that is changing people lives
 - z. The real danger to the world...is the preaching that will change hearts
 - aa. If you are sitting here today...and your heart was pierced today...by this teaching...then do something about it
 - bb. Today is the day to get serious about your walk with Christ
 - cc. I don't have to point it out what God wants us to change about our lives...because the Holy Spirit's is doing that right now
 - dd. Your job...The question is...how are you going to respond
17. Pray...Jesus...help us to have the courage to respond today...to stand up...and chose to get right with you today...give us the desire to be right with you Jesus ...more than anything this world has to offer...to trust in you fully...even when we don't understand...God help us...Holy Spirit work in our hearts today...
18. I am going to ask...if you are felling something in your heart today...get out of your seat and come up to the alter of God...and ask God for the courage to make a stand up for God today...ask God to change your heart today...God wants to minister to your heart today...Don't let Satan keep you in your seat...