

THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

February 5

2023

Does The Lord Know You?

When someone declares to know you, and they say that they will vouch for you, they usually say this because they have developed a relationship with you, and they have complete confidence and trust in you. Knowing that, I now ask, does the Lord know you? You see, the Scriptures are very clear that there are some in whom the Lord says “I know”, and there are likewise some in whom the Lord will say “I do not know.”

For instance, in the context of Matthew 7:21-23, we learn about some who will someday claim to have known the Lord, but yet they practiced lawlessness. However, in verse 23, notice how the Lord said He will respond to such, “And then I will declare to them, I never knew you, depart from Me you who practice lawlessness!” Think about that. As we learn from this passage, the Lord will someday declare to some who claim to know Him, that He does not know them, and if you practice lawlessness (i.e. sin) you will be one who will someday hear those dreaded words “I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.”

I also suggest to you that the Lord will not know those who fail to make proper preparation for eternity. In Matthew 25:1-13, we have what is commonly referred to as the parable of the wise and foolish virgins. Here we learn about five wise virgins who were properly prepared to meet the bridegroom, and about five foolish virgins who were unprepared. However, the point of this parable is

that those who are unprepared for the return of the Lord will someday hear the Lord say, “I do not know you” (Matthew 25:12). Therefore, the Lord will not know those who fail to make proper preparation for eternity, and if you are among those who fail to submit yourself to the obedience of the gospel of Christ, He will someday declare to not know you, and you will be forever punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord (2 Thessalonians 1:7-10).

I also inform you that the Lord does not know those who are workers of iniquity. In Luke 13:23, the Lord was asked, “Are there few who are saved?” Now notice how the Lord answered this question. He replied, “Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able. When once the Master of the house has risen up and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open for us, and He will answer and say to you, I do not know you, where you are from, then you will begin to say, we ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets. But He will say, I tell you I do not know you, where you are from, depart from Me, all you workers of iniquity” (Luke 13:24-27). Once more, the Lord does not know those who are workers of iniquity (i.e. those who are wicked or immoral).

However, on the flip side of that coin, the Scriptures teach that the Lord does know those who hear and follow Him (John 10:27). Therefore, if you claim to know and love the Lord, then simply keep His commandments (John 14:15). For the Lord says, “You are My friends if you do whatever I command you” (John 15:14), and we know that He is the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him (Hebrews 5:9).

So, once again, I ask, does the Lord know you? Does He? You see, the Lord does know those who are His. So, let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity (2 Timothy 2:19).

✍ Brad Phillips

Seed and Soil

The productivity of seed is directly proportionate to the fertility of soil. It matters not how good the seed is, if it is planted in bad soil; either it will not germinate or, having germinated, it will produce a sickly plant. So it is with the word of God and human hearts.

In the parable of "The Sower," stress is laid, not on the power of the seed, but, on the kind of soil in which it is sown. Four kinds of soil are mentioned in which the seed is sown -- the wayside, rocky places, soil in which thorns are abundant, and good soil (Lk. 8:1-15; Matt. 13:1-23). Each of these represents four different kinds of human hearts, while the seed is called "the word of God" (Lk. 8:11).

The deficiencies of the first three kinds of soil do not, in any way, cast reflection upon the power of the seed to produce life. The problem is in the soil and not in the seed. Neither should men speak of the word of God as powerless to convert men -- the potential to produce new life and to change men is found in the word of God (see Romans 1:16; 1 Peter 1:22-25). So why doesn't it always bring forth an abundant harvest? -- because the soil, the human heart, is not receptive or it is encumbered with the cares of the world. So, let's not blame God for our lack of productivity -- the kind of soil we are has been our choice.

What are the ingredients of fertile soil? Jesus defines it thusly: "... they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience" (Lk. 8:15). I believe there are still human beings with good hearts that want the word of God. Is your soil good?

✍ Jim R. Everett

God's Plan of Salvation

Hear the word of God. (Romans 10:17)

Believe in Jesus Christ. (John 8:24)

Repent of your sins. (Acts 17:30)

Confess Jesus Christ. (Matthew 10:32)

Be baptized for the remission of sins. (Acts 2:38)

Remain faithful unto death. (Revelation 2:10)

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth: to the Jew first, and also to the Greek." (Romans 1:16)

Belleville church of Christ

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www.bellevillechurch.net

Schedule of Services

Sunday Bible Study	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship	4:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study	7:00 p.m.

Elders

David Lockhart	(317) 714-6213
David Thomas	(317) 945-8539

Evangelist

Brad Phillips	(765) 720-2816
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