The Worthlessness Of False Profession!

(Lk.11:23-28)

Intro: I was considering again this week how many people we encounter who profess to be saved or say they are a Christian. Then when you question them as to how they became a Christian the vast majority will give an answer concerning good works.

1. The bible still says in (Eph.8-9) that we are saved by the grace of God not the works of man! *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God. Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

2. I am reminded of what Solomon said in (Pr 16:25) *There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.* Ever since man fell in the garden he has sought to justify himself man’s way is;
   1.) Religion, 2.) Reshaping a lifestyle, 3.) Relocation. 4.) Reformation. 5.) Rationalization.

3. God said in (Isa.55:7 -11) *Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. 8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. 10 For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: 11 So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.*

   God’s way is; 1.) Recognition (Rom.3:23) 2.) Respond to His Call. (Isa 45:22) *Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else. 3.) Repent of your sin (Acts.17:30) And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: 4.) Receive Him as your Saviour.*

4. If a sinner gets saved it will be through the plan of God that is laid out in the bible and no other. Look at the context of our passage (V.14-23) Jesus is casting out demons. With that in mind lets consider the text:

I. Consider the Possibility of false profession. (V.23-26)

1. We had better face the fact that there is the possibility of false profession. That person that has never shown anything for God something is wrong!

2. I think of the parable of the sower is a perfect picture of the possibility of the false profession. (Lk.8:4-8 & 11-15) here we see the Plan of the Sower "went out to sow" the Potential of the Seed and the Problem of the Soil. I am interested in the soil.

   A. Notice the Superficial soil. (V.5 & 12)

   1. We are told that this speaks of the person who hears the Gospel, but who doesn’t "understand it". That is, they cannot make the connection between the claims of the Gospel and their own life. Maybe they are steeped in sin and refuse to believe.

   2. They rationalize they say I am as good as the next fellow, and better than most anyway this crowd is a little "over the top" God loves everybody.

   B. Notice the Shallow soil. (V.6 & 13)

   1. These are they that shoot up like a rocket and come down just as fast. As soon as some type of temptation come they succumb to and are gone. Why? Because "they have no root"

   C. Notice the Strangled soil. (V.7 & 14)
1. This is a picture of a person who tries to have the benefit of the Gospel while still clinging to the old life of sin. Without a conscious break from the old life of sin this person does not have a chance of being saved. The seed of the Gospel cannot survive to produce fruit in a heart filled with other things. The seed will have the ground or sin will have the ground, but it cannot be shared! Jesus said it was the cares of the world and the quest for earthly riches that spelled disaster for this kind of soil. This kind of person begins well, but soon fades away, having their profession choked out by sin and the world.

2. Were they really saved? No! How do we know for sure? There is no fruit of salvation in their life! When Jesus comes in to a life, He makes a difference in that life, (2 Cor. 5:17). Again, we like to look at people who have made a profession and who are back out in sin and say they are "backslidden and out of God’s will" or "carnal". More likely, they have just never been saved to begin with.

D. Notice the Sowable soil. (V.8 & 15)

II. Consider the Pretense of false profession. (V.25)

1. Notice here what this demon spirit finds when he comes and finds his house or the person he left.

A. Notice the Cleaning up.

1. Notice the "swept" the word means: cleaned up this person got a hair cut, I mean cleaned up!

B. Notice the Characterization.

1. Notice the word "garnished" means: to put in order arrange, to ornament, adorn, to establish with honor or gain honor.

C. Notice the Conclusion.

1. The ideal here is the house was broom clean and empty, everything in this life was pretend. Nice on the outside empty on the inside!

2. Being saved is more than cleaning up, putting on a suit and getting a King James Bible there must be someone on the inside!

III. Consider the Peril of false profession. (V.26)

1. Someone may say "big deal preacher so what if someone makes a false profession". What is the big deal? Let’s look;

A. Notice the Situation.

1. The situation is when the demon spirit finds his house cleaned up dressed up but empty. He goes and gets 7 more demon spirits "more wicked than himself"

2. The big deal is these are religious demons, you take a drunkard, a doper a harlot exc. They know what they are but these religious demons are at work convincing these people they are ok.

B. Notice the State.

1. Notice the phrase "the last state of that man is worse than the first." Jesus said that the person was better off before this profession than after.

IV. Consider the Prevention of false profession. (V.27-28)

1. If we are going to prevent false profession we must respond when the Holy Ghost deals with us in conviction. The bible says in (1Co 12:3) Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.

2. Here in this verse Paul is emphasizing the fact no man "can say Jesus is Lord but by the Holy Ghost". The emphasis is the Holy Ghost must be dealing with that sinner or the profession will be false.

A. Notice we must Hear the word of God. (V.28)

1. I am reminded of what James said in (Jas 1:22-25) But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving
your own selves. 23 For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: 24 For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. 25 But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

B. Notice we must Hold to the word of God. (V.28)

1. This business of coming and making a profession and there is going back to the same life as before no, change brother God can beat that. The bible says in (2Co 5:17) *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*

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