

# I Never Knew You – Jesus (Part 2)

Jeff Rogers / Lamplighter Bible Study

Matthew 7:21-23

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**Matthew 7:21–23**, *“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22 On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ 23 And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’”*

How do we become self-deceived? What is an unsaved Christian?

**1. The unsaved Christian has a false understanding of assurance.**

- a. A false understanding of assurance begins with “*professing faith*” in Christ as the only requirement. This false understanding lacks repentance and faith.
- b. We become self-deceived when we believe in the teaching, never to doubt our salvation.
  - i. It is the Holy Spirit who certifies our salvation, not man (**Romans 8:14-16, 1 John 3:24**)
- c. We deny that our calling to Christ is made secure by possession of and increasing in fruitfulness (**2 Peter 1:3-11**)
- d. We deny the possibility of appearing saved but being lost (**Matthew 13:20-22**)

**2. The unsaved Christian fails to examine himself.**

- a. We have a faulty understanding of grace if we believe we can go through life as believers and not be concerned about sin (**1 Corinthians 11:28-30**).
- b. Our self-examination must go below the surface and into our heart, our inner motives, and desires to see if they align with God’s holiness and righteousness. Though he will let his flesh hinder him at times, true believers will have a pure desire for righteousness (**Romans 7:14-25**, esp. vss. 21-25).
- c. We are explicitly instructed to test ourselves and our faith. (**2 Corinthians 13:5**)
- d. A person not concerned about having his present sins cleansed has good reason to doubt that his past sin has been forgiven (**1 John 1:8–9**).

**3. The unsaved Christian focuses on a historical experience rather than present realities.**

- a. A true Christian believes in the true Christ (**1 John 1:1-4; 5:21**)
  - i. Christ defines and reveals Himself to mankind
    1. The true Christ is eternal (from the beginning; John 1:1)
    2. The true Christ is God’s son in flesh (seen and heard) (John 1:14)
  - ii. John and the Apostles offered first hand testimony to the true Christ.
    1. He was seen, heard, and touched by the apostles.
    2. Christ is truly God and truly man.
- b. A true Christian is concerned with present sin (**1 John 1:5-2:2**)
  - i. We can lie and do not practice the truth (1:6)
  - ii. We can deceive ourselves and not possess the truth (1:8)
  - iii. We can make God a liar and his word is not in us (1:10)
- c. A true Christian is obedient to God’s word (**1 John 2:3-6**)
  - i. We are obedient to His commandments (keep – observe; conform. To continue to obey orders or commandments).
  - ii. Perfected (vs. 5) to be fully accomplished. The sense here is progress towards a goal.
  - iii. True believers hunger for the Word of God and receive nourishment from it.
- d. A true Christian loves his Christian brothers and sisters (**1 John 2:7-11**)
  - i. 1 John 3:14-15, 4:20, Titus 3:3
  - ii. The Bible compares believers to sheep
    1. Sheep are naturally social and rely on each other for safety, warmth, and guidance.

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2. Sheep stick together and this behavior helps them detect predators early and protects against being singled out by the threat.
  3. Sheep are natural herd animals helping them find water and food.
  4. Sheep become stressed when alone and not around the familiar.
  5. Sheep (younger from the older) learn from the flock.
- e. A true Christian will reject the world (1 John 2:15-17)
    - i. Abraham sought for a city whose builder and maker is God. (Heb 11:8-10)
  - f. A true Christian will discern of Biblical truth (1 John 2:18-27, esp vs. 23)
    - i. **1 John 4:15**, *Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.*
    - ii. **1 John 5:1-2**, *Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. 2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments.*
    - iii. **2 John 9**, *Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son.*
  - g. A true Christian will practice true righteousness (1 John 2:28-3:10)
    - i. **1 John 2:29**, *If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him.*
    - ii. **1 John 3:6**, *No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him.*
    - iii. **1 John 3:10**, *By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.*
  - h. A true Christian has confidence before God (1 John 3:19-24)
    - i. **1 John 3:24**, *Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.*
    - ii. **Romans 8:16**, *The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,*
  - i. A true Christian practices and receives answers to prayer (1 John 5:14-17; 3:22)
    - i. **1 John 5:14-15**, *And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. 15 And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.*
    - ii. **1 John 3:22**, *And whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him.*
4. **The unsaved Christian focuses intently on religious activity and the traditions of men.**
    - a. In our text we see this and will develop it more, but notice...
      - i. “Did we not prophesy in your name.”
      - ii. “Did we not cast out demons in your name.”
      - iii. “Did we not do many mighty works in your name.”
    - b. A believer can be “doing” and not being faithful and obedient (heart issue).
    - c. An unbeliever can be “doing” and think he is saved in the doing.
  5. **The unsaved Christian can believe in the “scales” philosophy.** (Simply, “I got more good stuff, than bad stuff.)
  6. **The unsaved Christian can live on the surface or be superficial.**
    - a. He attended church as a child.
    - b. He was baptized as a baby or child.
    - c. He was a church member.
    - d. His parents were “Christians.”

**2 Peter 1:10**, *Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall.*

**Is there enough evidence convicts you of being a Christian?**