

HINDRANCES TO SALVATION!

TEXT: Luke 11:52 (With Matt.7:13-14).

INTRO:

A. Salvation (Eternal life) is compared to a "gate and way" that we "enter".

B. Jesus rebuked the Pharisees and lawyers for ...

1. Throwing away the KEY to the GATE, not entering in the GATE, and setting up obstacles in the way of those that were entering in (Lk 11:54).
2. They had set up many "hindrances" in the way to salvation (v.52).
 - a. Being MORE concerned about the "outward" and not considering the "inward" (v.39).
 - b. "Leaving" the important things of God's "undone" (v. 42).
 - c. "Adding" to the meaning of God's law - thereby "burdening" the people (v. 46)

C. This leads me to the thought about "hindrances" to salvation.

1. There are MANY "obstacles" that stand in the way of every man's salvation.
2. A look at SOME of the "obstacles" that MUST be overcome in order for a sinner to be saved.

I. MAN'S OWN DEPRAVITY IS A HINDRANCE TO SALVATION (Isa. 59:1-2).

A. The chief hindrance to a man's salvation is himself!

1. Man's crookedness separates him from God

B. Man's WILL is SO bent on sinning that he WILL NOT be saved (Isa. 1:5-6; Jn. 5:39-40).

1. He WILLS not to be saved.
2. He LOVES his sin too much to WILLFULLY give it up (I Tim. 5:6; II Tim. 3:1-4)

C. Man's sins have such a hold on him that he CANNOT come to God (Jn. 6:44, 65; Jer.13:23).

1. You CANNOT! There is no hope for you IN YOUR SELF!

D. If a man is ever to be saved HIS depravity MUST be OVERCOME by a power greater than himself!

1. He WILL NOT and CANNOT overcome it himself!

II. DECEPTIVE WAYS OF SALVATION ARE A HINDRANCE TO SALVATION (Lk. 11:39, 46).

A. One of the greatest hindrances to TRUE SALVATION is all the FALSE "plans" of salvation.

1. Some LEAVE OFF some things - Namely SIN & REPENTANCE (V.39, 42).
 - a. The TRUE nature of the law was to SHOW the sinner his wickedness and helplessness and the Judgment to come (Rom. 3:19-20).
2. Some ADD ON some things - Namely WORKS (V.46).
 - a. Some ADD Baptism .Some "holding out" until the end ...Some "Sabbath-keeping" ...
 - b. True salvation means to cease "DOING" and start "TRUSTING"! (Rom. 4:1-8).

B. Salvation is not in a "plan" or a "road" but IN a MAN - THE GOD-MAN - JESUS CHRIST!

1. If you are "burdened" By self, sin, the law, plans .Jesus says, Come unto ME (MatT. 11:28)!

III. A DISCIPLE'S DEMEANOR CAN BE A HINDRANCE TO SALVATION.

A. Our conduct should NEVER stand in the way of sinners being saved.

1. We must be careful that our WALK does not hinder the Lost (I Cor. 9:27 Col. 4:4-5; I Pet. 3:14-17).
 - a. Our WALK may be used FOR the Salvation of the Lost (I Pet. 3:1-6)

B. How we REASON with the lost may hinder them being saved (I Pet. 3:15).

1. We MUST be READY to give an answer!
 - a. We cannot LEAN to our OWN UNDERSTANDING (Proverbs 3:5).
 - b. The ONLY way to be ready to give a godly answer is to sanctify the Lord God in our heart (I Pet. 3:15; Col. 3:16).

IV. THE DEVIL IS A HINDRANCE TO SALVATION (Luke 8:12)

A. The Devil hinders salvation by "stealing" the word out of men's heart.

1. He steals the word by casting doubt on it and making light of it.
 - a. The devil says, "Hath God said?" (Genesis 3:1) & "IF" (Mt. 4:3, 6).
 - b. Is there REALLY ...a God ...a hell ...a Judgment ...?
2. He steals the word by adding to it and taking from it (Mt. 4:3-7).
 - a. The Fire is still in Hell! Judgment is still coming! God is still on His throne!

B. Know this - The Devil is a LAIR (John 8:44)!

1. What ever your "doubts" may be - they are "lies" of the DEVIL!
 - a. I am too bad a sinner ...I have been a sinner too long ..I have wasted away my day of grace ...
 - b. HEAR God's WORD - BELIEVE it and BE SAVED (Isaiah 45:20-22; II Cor 6:2; Acts 16:31).

CON:

A. There are GREAT hindrances to salvation!

B. There are GREAT things that STAND in the way of YOU being SAVED!

C. Who then can be saved? (Mark 10:26-27).

D. How then can they be saved?

1. The Lord Jesus Christ and His D.B.R!