

# Troubling Verses

One of the most troubling verses in the Bible.

## **Matthew 7:21-23**

*21 “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ 23 And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’*

**Think about that for a minute:**

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Not everyone who says **“Lord, Lord.”**

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This isn't talking about people of ‘**Other Religions.**’

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This isn't talking about people who have:  
**never heard of Jesus**

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This isn’t talking about people of ‘Other Religions.’

This isn’t talking about people who have:  
never heard of Jesus.

Jesus is talking about folks who know  
**the Gospels and who know who Jesus is**



Those people who say, Lord, Lord,  
have prophesied in His name.

In other words:

Those people who say, Lord, Lord,  
have prophesied in His name.

In other words: **They've preached for Him.**

They've done great and marvelous things in the name of Jesus.

That's like saying,

- They've tithed by given in the offering plate

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That's like saying,

- They've tithed by given in the offering plate
- They've sung in the choir

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That's like saying,

- They've tithed by given in the offering plate
- They've sung in the choir
- They've been active within their church

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That's like saying,

- They've tithed by given in the offering plate
- They've sung in the choir
- They've been active within their church
- They've setup tables and chairs for functions

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That's like saying,

- They've tithed by given in the offering plate
- They've sung in the choir
- They've been active within their church
- They've setup tables and chairs for functions
- They've handed out fliers and tracts

They've done great and marvelous things in the name of Jesus.

That's like saying,

- They've tithed by given in the offering plate
- They've sung in the choir
- They've been active within their church
- They've setup tables and chairs for functions
- They've handed out fliers and tracts
- They've gone door to door



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That's like saying,

- They've tithed by given in the offering plate
- They've sung in the choir
- They've been active within their church
- They've setup tables and chairs for functions
- They've handed out fliers and tracts
- They've gone door to door
- They've served on different committees and attended meetings

**Notice in these verse:**

*21 “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord,*

*have we not prophesied... in Your name,  
cast out demons... in Your name,  
and done many wonders... in Your name?’*

These people:

**1. Believe they are Christians**

These people:

1. Believe they are Christians
- 2. Believe they are saved**

These people:

1. Believe they are Christians
2. Believe they are saved
- 3. Believe they are going to heaven**

These people:

1. Believe they are Christians
2. Believe they are saved
3. Believe they are going to heaven
4. **Believe they have eternal life**

These people:

1. Believe they are Christians
2. Believe they are saved
3. Believe they are going to heaven
4. Believe they have eternal life
5. They believe: But...

These people:

1. Believe they are Christians
2. Believe they are saved
3. Believe they are going to heaven
4. Believe they have eternal life
5. They believe: But...

**They are very wrong in their **un**belief.**



There are people in this world who believe they are Christian:

**But aren't**

There are people in this world who believe they are Christian:

But aren't

There are people in this country who believe they are Christian:

**But aren't**

There are people in this world who believe they are Christian:

But aren't

There are people in this country who believe they are Christian:

But aren't

There are people in this church who believe they are Christian:

**But aren't**

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It raises the question...

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“If they believe..., **Why aren't they saved?**”

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“If they believe..., Why aren’t they saved?”

**Jesus said ...** there will be folks who say, “Lord, Lord”  
and those folks will...

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Not Enter Heaven

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**Jesus said ...** there will be folks who say, “Lord, Lord”  
and those folks will...

Not Enter Heaven

Let’s look at other Bible verses to find out why ...

**those people aren’t saved**



## **1 John 5:11-13**

*<sup>11</sup> And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. <sup>12</sup> He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. <sup>13</sup> These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.*

*And this is the testimony:*

Let's examine the word, **testimony**. Or *Record*.

In a jury trial, if you were called as a witness, your testimony would be recorded by a stenographer.

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Let's examine the word, **testimony**. Or *Record*.

In a jury trial, if you were called as a witness, your testimony would be recorded by a stenographer.

The transcript of your testimony becomes a permanent record

That's what the Apostle John is saying with these verses.

This is a record of the testimony that God has given to us.

We're reading God's testimony, written for us to know the official record.

It's valid, truthful, and correct.

We can trust it.

## **1 John 5:11-13**

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The record states that God has **given**...

Not earned

Not sold

Not worked for

It's---a---gift

The record states that God has **given**...

~~Not earned~~

The record states that God has **given**...

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**It's a gift...to be received**

But keep in mind, the gift doesn't come by itself.

*...that God has given us eternal life, and this life is...*

But keep in mind, the gift doesn't come by itself.

*...that God has given us eternal life, and this life is...*

***IN His Son.***

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*...that God has given us eternal life, and this life is...*

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In our culture, at Christmas time, at birthday celebrations, or on special occasions, we give gifts to each other.

But the gift is wrapped. It comes in a package.

We often discard the wrappings or the package.

But keep in mind, the gift doesn't come by itself.

*...that God has given us eternal life, and this life is...*

*in His Son.*

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*in His Son.*

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But the gift is wrapped. It comes in a package.

We often discard the wrappings or the package.

But with God's gift, the package is **critical**

**Without the package, then there is no gift.**

Back in Matthew 7, what does Jesus say to these people?

**Matthew 7:21-23** <sup>21</sup> “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. <sup>22</sup> Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ <sup>23</sup> **And then I will declare to them, I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!**’



Jesus said, *I never **knew** you;*

To understand the word 'know', one of its implications means:

*To learn*

*To be aware*

*To acknowledge*

*To understand*

*To realize*

*To remember*

*That involves mental agreement, mental knowledge, mental learning, or the mental discovering of ideas.*

However, in Matthew 7

This is **NOT** what Jesus meant.

The word 'know' also carries...

another meaning.

Adam **knew** his wife, Eve. Gen. 4:1

Mary asks of Gabriel,

“How can this be since I do not **know** a man.”

Adam **knew** his wife, Eve. Gen. 4:1

Mary asks of Gabriel,

“How can this be since I do not **know** a man.”

It means knowledge via experience.

- Adam had experienced a relationship with Eve.
- Mary had not experienced a relationship with a man

When Jesus said, “I never **knew** you,” He meant ...

When Jesus said, “I never **knew** you,” He meant ...

He had never experienced a relationship with those people.

When Jesus said, “I never **knew** you,” He meant He had never experienced a relationship with those people.

The idea that Jesus never **knew** these people, carries the same connotation as Adam **knew** his wife, and Mary had **not known** a man.

The idea means to have a ‘relationship’ with...



So far we've identified two prime differences of 'know':

So far we've identified two prime differences of 'know':

1. Know involves knowledge with our minds

So far we've identified two prime differences of 'know':

1. Know involves knowledge with our minds
2. Know involves a relationship experience

So far we've identified two prime differences of 'know':

1. Know involves knowledge with our minds

2. Know involves a relationship experience

Jesus wants a relationship with you and me

So far we've identified two prime differences of 'know':

1. Know involves knowledge with our minds

2. Know involves a relationship experience

Jesus wants a relationship with you and me

He doesn't seek people with head knowledge about Him

Example:

I know about Brian Kemp, the governor of Georgia.

I can read about him, learn about his life, his ideas, his policies, his goals, etc.

Perhaps I campaigned for him.

Perhaps I collected money to help him win the election.

Perhaps I held rallies or attended campaign functions.

All of my understanding about Brian Kemp is head knowledge

This would be like the folks in Matthew 7

- They know about Jesus
- They campaigned for Jesus
- They raised money for Jesus
- They attended functions for Jesus

Problem: They know ABOUT Jesus

They don't know Him personally

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- They know about Jesus
- They campaigned for Jesus
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Problem: They know ABOUT Jesus

They don't know Him personally

If you were to ask Brian Kemp if he knows Michael Emmert, he would reply, “Nope, I don't know him.”



On the other hand:

I've met Dean, our class teacher

I've talked to him

I've attended functions with him

I've talked with him on the phone

We have experienced an ongoing relationship

I can always learn more about Dean, but he and I have an  
established relationship

Our knowing each other is not just head knowledge

It's an experiential relationship

Do you see the difference?

Do you see the difference?

Do you know the difference?

Do you see the difference?

Do you know the difference?

Do you understand the difference?

Do you see the difference?

Do you know the difference?

Do you understand the difference?

The difference between Head knowledge about someone:  
compared to-

Personal relationship with someone:

Let's shift gears for a few minutes

We'll come back to this idea of difference

Someone might ask this question:

Isn't **belief** required to be saved?

Isn't **belief** the sole requirement for salvation?

**Acts 16:31** <sup>31</sup> *So they said, “**Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved,***

**Mark 16:16** <sup>16</sup> *He who **believes** ...will be saved; but he who does not **believe** will be condemned.*

**Romans 10:9** <sup>9</sup> *that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and **believe** in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.*

The Bible clearly states that salvation comes by **believing** on Jesus Christ, His death, His burial, and His resurrection

It's NOT by works

Therefore, shouldn't **believing** be enough?



The folks in Matthew 7 **believed**,  
but Jesus said they weren't saved, meaning...  
their **belief** didn't save them

**James 2:19** *<sup>19</sup> You believe that there is one God. You do well.  
Even the demons **believe**—and tremble!*

Whoa. The demons **believe** but that won't save them.

What's going on here?

**John 8:30 ff** <sup>30</sup> *As He spoke these words, many believed in Him.* <sup>31</sup> *Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. ...*

<sup>34</sup> *Jesus answered them, ...* <sup>37</sup> *“I know that you are Abraham’s descendants, but you seek to kill Me, because My word has no place in you. <sup>38</sup> I speak what I have seen with My Father, and you do what you have seen with your father.” ...*

<sup>42</sup> *Jesus said to them, ...* <sup>43</sup> *Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word. <sup>44</sup> You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. ...*

## **This can be Confusing, can't it**

Jesus was speaking to Jews 'who **believed** Him', yet these were the very same people who Jesus said they were of their father the devil.

It needs to be understood that there are two kinds of **belief**

## **This can be Confusing, can't it**

Jesus was speaking to Jews 'who **believed** Him', yet these were the very same people who Jesus said they were of their father the devil.

It needs to be understood that there are two kinds of **belief**

In Matthew 7 those people **believed**, but their **belief** was  
the wrong kind

**Romans 10:9** <sup>9</sup> *that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and **believe** in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.*

**Proverbs 3:5-6** <sup>5</sup> *Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; <sup>6</sup> In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.*

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The Bible asks us to believe with

Our Heart

The Bible asks us to believe with

Our Heart

Not

Our Head



Let me share a story to demonstrate the crucial difference

Between:

Head knowledge

and

Heart knowledge

The story is about two towns in the mountains

## Story

There are two towns in the rugged mountains, one on each side of deep and steep canyon with a raging torrent of water coursing through jagged rock walls only a hundred yards apart. Though these towns were so close to each other, the only way to get from one town to the other is via a bridge five miles upriver or by a ferry three miles downriver.

## Story

There had been discussions about building a foot bridge over this roaring chasm, but funds had never been obtained to accomplish this. However, there was a single cable stretched across the abyss, although the reason for this cable could not be recalled.

## Story

In each town there were lookout points that had been developed for travelers and tourists and visitors. The view from these points was absolutely fantastic. During Autumn the colorful leaves was a wondrous sight. During Summer, winds swept through the canyon and down the river created an astounding stream of trees bending and swaying, almost like waves in the ocean. In Spring the beautiful blossoms on the foliage created an amazing view and travelers came from miles around. But in Winter, the ice and snow glistened from the rocks and crags below as the rushing water gurgled through this narrow gorge.

## Story

There was always crowds of folks on each side of the river at the lookout points, admiring the view.

One day, a van pulled up on each side of the river and a team of workers began to test and secure the cable that spanned this canyon.

The crowd whispered among themselves, asking what was happening.

## Story

Soon an athletic man emerged from the vehicle dressed in tights and carrying a long pole. He mounted the cable and, balancing himself with the pole, walked across the cable, and walked back.

He dismounted and asked the people if they believed he could walk across the cable again.

Of course, they believed, they'd just seen him do it.

He traversed the cable again by crossing and returning.

## Story

He asked the crowd if they believed he could walk the wire without the pole. A few thought he could, but others were unsure.

The man discarded the pole and again navigated across the spanning cable and returned. He then placed a wheelbarrow on the wire and walked across and back.

He asked the people if they believed he could cross the wire with a wheelbarrow. Of course, they believed, they'd just seen him do it.

## Story

For the man's next act, he loaded the wheelbarrow with two hundred pounds of bricks and walked across the wire and back.

As was his custom, he asked the people if they believed he could cross the cable with two hundred pounds of bricks.

Again, they agreed that he could do such an amazing feat, they'd just seen him doing it.



## Story

He asked the crowd if they believed he could cross the canyon with someone riding inside the wheelbarrow. Most of the spectators raised their hands because this acrobat had shown he possessed an amazing talent.

Therefore, they were sure he could cross the canyon with a passenger in the wheelbarrow.

His next question, “Who’s my first volunteer?”

Oh oh. Oops. That question changed the entire dynamics.

Do you now understand the difference?

**Belief** with our head...

involves only knowledge

Do you now understand the difference?

Belief with our head...

involves only knowledge

**Belief** with our heart involves trusting with our lives

That's the kind of thing Jesus is asking of you and me. Are we willing to cast aside all caution and place our lives, our entire self, into God's hands?

Unless you are, that could raise a question as to the sincerity of your belief or perhaps whether you know Jesus personally.

Do you trust Him with your whole heart, with your whole life, with your entire being, without reservation, all choices, all decisions, and everything?

In Matthew 7, Jesus said he never Knew those folks

In Matthew 7, Jesus said he never Knew those folks

There are people in this world who **believe** they're Christians

In Matthew 7, Jesus said he never Knew those folks

There are people in this world who believe they're Christians

There are people in this country who **believe** they're Christians

In Matthew 7, Jesus said he never Knew those folks

There are people in this world who believe they're Christians

There are people in this country who believe they're Christians

There are people in this church who **believe** they're Christians



In Matthew 7, Jesus said he never Knew those folks

There are people in this world who believe they're Christians

There are people in this country who believe they're Christians

There are people in this church who believe they're Christians

But they aren't Christians...

because Jesus will say, **“I never knew you.”**

Each of us must examine our hearts.

What's in them?

What do we believe?

Do we trust Jesus with everything in our lives,

or

Each of us must examine our hearts.

What's in them?

What do we believe?

Do we trust Jesus with everything in our lives,

or

Do we hold back things so we that can control them?

**1 John 5:11-13** <sup>11</sup> *And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.* <sup>12</sup> *He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.* <sup>13</sup> *These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, **that you may KNOW that you have eternal life**, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.*

The Apostle John wrote this testimony, this record, so that readers would know they had God's gift of eternal life.

Do you **KNOW** you have God's gift of eternal life?

The Apostle John wrote this testimony, this record, so that readers would know they had God's gift of eternal life.

Do you **KNOW** you have God's gift of eternal life?

How do you know this for sure?

The Apostle John wrote this testimony, this record, so that readers would know they had God's gift of eternal life.

Do you KNOW you have God's gift of eternal life?

How do you know this for sure?

Is it because you have a heart-relationship with Jesus?

The Apostle John wrote this testimony, this record, so that readers would know they had God's gift of eternal life.

Do you **KNOW** you have God's gift of eternal life?

How do you know this for sure?

Is it because you have a heart-relationship with Jesus?

Or is it only head knowledge?