



A young woman was nervous about meeting her boy friend's parents for the first time; she wanted to look her absolute best. As she glanced at herself in the mirror, she noticed her black pumps looked a little dingy, so she gave them a fast swipe with the paper towel she had used to blot her breakfast bacon. When she arrived at their home she was greeted by the parents and their spoiled, cranky poodle. The dog got a whiff of the bacon grease on her shoes and followed her around all evening. At the end of the evening, as she was getting ready to leave, her boyfriend's parents said, "Cleo really likes you, dear, and she is an excellent judge of character. We are delighted to welcome you into our little family."

This silly story may make a serious point. We need to be slow to judge others. Not only should we be slow to condemn others, we also need to be slow to approve others.

The Bible tells us of ministers who are "wolves in sheep's clothing." Satan himself sometimes appearing as a "minister of light."

2 Corinthians 11:13-15

¹³For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. ¹⁴And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. ¹⁵Therefore *it is* no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

Matthew 7:15 "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves."

Matthew 7 Warnings about Deception

v.13-14 Warning about a false gate.

There is only one way to Heaven. The "broad way" is the popular way, but it leads to Hell.

v.15-20 Warning about false prophets, or preachers.

You can tell a false teacher by the "fruit" of his ministry. The "fruit" of his ministry are people who think they are saved, but they have never repented of their sin and their lives are unchanged. They live as wickedly after their supposed salvation, as they did before.

v.21-24 Warning about false believers.

These are people who have been deceived by the false prophets of verse 15-20. The "fruit" of the false preacher's ministry are unsaved church members. These folk were told that they didn't need to repent of their sin in order to be saved, they just needed to "invite Christ into their life." They will one day stand before God and say, "Lord, Lord" fully expecting to be received into Heaven: however, God will turn them away with the words, "I never knew you." Also among this crowd are those who were told that they could earn their way to Heaven by being very, very religious. These also are turned away.

v.24-27 Warning about a false approach to salvation.

Here we read about two foundations that people trust for their salvation; sand, and rock.

He is the Rock. Throughout the Bible Jesus is pictured as the "Rock of our salvation."

1 Peter 2:7-8

⁷Unto you therefore which believe *he is* precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, ⁸And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, *even to them* which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.

Religion is the "sinking sand." The "sinking sand" that leads to destruction is trusting for salvation in anything other than repentance toward God and faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ.

Acts 20:18-21

¹⁸... he [Paul] said unto them, Ye know, from the first day that I came into Asia, after what manner I have been with you at all seasons, ¹⁹Serving the Lord with all humility of mind, and with many tears, and temptations, which befell me by the lying in wait of the Jews: ²⁰And how I kept back nothing that was profitable *unto you*, but have shewed you, and have taught you publickly, and from house to house, ²¹Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, **repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.**

God's way of salvation is in a Person, the Lord Jesus Christ. The means of salvation are repentance and faith. (plus nothing and minus nothing)

We don't always get along with our family so don't expect everything to always go right at church.