



**BEFORE YOU LOOK AT ANY MATERIAL IN THIS SHEET ...**

**Bullet point what is “required” biblically to “get saved” or be a true Christian:**

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**Bullet point what will be the results / evidences of a true Christian:**

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# IS THERE A PHARISEE IN ME?

## 1. Godliness or just good works? Real or religious?

Amazingly, Jesus himself says there are things we are expected to be/do that are “weightier” or more important in God’s eyes. The things he lists that the Pharisees seem to be doing well are “easy” and outward. The things that are most important seem to be things that are more INWARD and much harder...

Matt. 23:23-24<sup>ESV</sup>

<sup>23</sup> "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others.

<sup>24</sup> You blind guides, straining out a gnat and swallowing a camel!

List the things you DO that you think God likes? (Outward things that aren’t probably all that hard to do?)

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List the things you DON’T do that you think God desires and are probably MORE important to him? Things that have more to do with being like Him and are harder to do?

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## 2. Clean outside, but filthy inside?

The Pharisees did not IGNORE “cleaning up” their lives but it seems they were more interested in cleaning up what people could see and evaluate. However, they did not seem to clean up the TRUE person. The REAL them. The inside:

Matt. 23:25-28<sup>ESV</sup>

<sup>25</sup> "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and the plate, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence.

<sup>26</sup> You blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and the plate, that the outside also may be clean.

<sup>27</sup> "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people's bones and all uncleanness.

<sup>28</sup> So you also outwardly appear righteous to others, but within you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

What outward impression do you give people? Do they see a “clean and good” outward?

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Does your inward match your outward? What is on the inside that the outside is masking? What is God seeing and saying you really need to clean out?

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### 3. Busy with ministry but NOT living it?

The Pharisees were very busy doing ministry and even evangelizing, however, they were not true believers, therefore, anyone that they affected “religiously” were not affected to Christlikeness or true faith.

**Matt. 23:15** <sup>ESV</sup>

<sup>15</sup> Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel across sea and land to make a single proselyte, and when he becomes a proselyte, you make him twice as much a child of hell as yourselves.

if I brought you a “new convert” and told them to watch your every habit of life, action, thought and motive, and to follow you as Paul told others to follow him, describe in detail what they would turn out like?

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In what ways would they look like Christ after learning from your life?

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## LOOKING FOR EVIDENCE

### 4. Repentance and change or just remorse and guilt?

**Repentance:** “to change one’s way of life as the result of a complete change of thought and attitude with regard to sin and righteousness.”<sup>1</sup>

Matthew 3:8: "Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance."

Matthew 3:8 <sup>NLT</sup> "Prove by the way you live that you have really turned from your sins and turned to God."

Acts 26:19 <sup>NAS</sup> "Consequently, King Agrippa, I did not prove disobedient to the heavenly vision, <sup>20</sup> but *kept* declaring both to those of Damascus first, and *also* at Jerusalem and *then* throughout all the region of Judea, and *even* to the Gentiles, that they should **repent** and turn to God, performing deeds appropriate to repentance.

Romans 6:2-6: if, "...we died to sin, how is it possible to still live in the same way? ... so we should conduct ourselves in newness of life... "

1 John 2:29: "Since you know that He is righteous, we know that *everyone who practices what is right* is born of Him."

**1 John 1:6** <sup>NKJ</sup> If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. <sup>7</sup> But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

If salvation is inseparable from repentance and repentance assumes change, then any who would come to Christ would necessarily show change.

If salvation and the Christian life are characterized by turning from sin and CHANGE in the areas of sin... describe how your life shows a pattern of repentance?

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<sup>1</sup> Louw, s.v. "μετανοέω; μετανοία," 510. They go on to state in footnote 5 that "the focal semantic feature of these terms is clearly behavioral rather than intellectual."

2 Corinthians 5:17<sup>ESV</sup>: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed (INDICATIVE aorist active – past reality) away; behold, the new has come (INDICATIVE perfect active – ongoing result of a completed action)

James 2:14 “My brothers, what is the benefit if you claim to have the faith, but it has no actions with it? Is that kind of faith capable of saving him?”

This verse also makes it clear that ALL who are true believers are CHANGED into a new creation in Christ. Notice that the person is **new**, not just the actions. What is different about you as a person compared to the nice moral caring unbelievers?

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## 5. True Christians love their God and Savior

John 8:42: “... If God was your Father, then you would love Me.”

Matt 22:37 – “...You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.”

What do you think it means/ looks like to “LOVE GOD”?

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Do you think you have true love for God? Explain your answer:

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## 6. **WARNING (deeper study):** Feelings, excitement, joy, short lived excitement (Matt 13:3-9, 18-23), or doing lots of “ministry” (Matt 7:16-23), are not evidences of true saving faith:

**Matt. 7:16-23**<sup>ESV</sup>

<sup>16</sup> You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?

<sup>17</sup> So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit.

<sup>18</sup> A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit.

<sup>19</sup> Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>20</sup> Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.

<sup>21</sup> "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.

<sup>22</sup> 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?'

<sup>23</sup> And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'

**Matt. 13:3-9 / 18-23** <sup>ESV</sup>

<sup>3</sup> And he told them many things in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow.

<sup>4</sup> And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them.

<sup>5</sup> Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil,

<sup>6</sup> but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away.

<sup>7</sup> Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them.

<sup>8</sup> Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

<sup>9</sup> He who has ears, let him hear."

**18-23**

<sup>18</sup> "Hear then the parable of the sower:

<sup>19</sup> When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path.

<sup>20</sup> As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy,

<sup>21</sup> yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away.

<sup>22</sup> As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.

<sup>23</sup> As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."