

TAKING IT HOME – How to make sure!

1. Am I just a “Modern Christian” or a “Kingdom follower” of Jesus?
2. Am I trusting Jesus just for heaven, or for heaven and for bringing it down now?
3. Is there fruit? What changes have there been since I trusted Jesus? What changes is He calling me to make now?
4. Do I need to get baptized- own my faith in Jesus as Savior and Lord, publicly?
5. Is grace-filled repentance a habit in my life? Practice the “Truth Chart” & “Yoke of the Kingdom Prayer”- this will help you keep repenting, willingly, with joy!

What is the true truth you know you should believe?	
What is the “emotional lie” you believe? And why? (usually a hurt or disappointment)	
How does the emotional lie affect the way you see	How would the true truth affect the way you see
God	
Yourself	
Others	
Circumstances	
What would repentance look like?	

(Adapted from Ruthie Delk, “Truth Chart”, cravinggrace.org)

YOKE OF THE KINGDOM PRAYER- Lord Jesus, Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. By your grace, I want to take up Your yoke, seek first Your kingdom, trust You with all my heart, and lean not on my own understanding. With Your yoke on, You will add all other things, make my paths straight and my burdens light. With Your yoke, You will help me love God with all my heart and others as much as myself. When I feel burdened or unsettled, show me how to get back in Your yoke. Your kingdom come; Your will be done Lord Jesus. Thank You! I love You!

❖ **WHAT’S GOD SAYING TO YOU?** – write it down, pray it back, share it with others!

Heavenly Father, Your kingdom is joy, peace, and righteousness in the Holy Spirit, in heaven and on earth. Forgive me for making it just about me getting to heaven. I want to bring heaven down, by trusting Jesus for eternal life and for my living life right now. Help me to live like Him, through constant faith and repentance in Him. Not my will but Your will be done in my life. I take the yoke of your kingdom. I especially feel You saying to me...

KINGDOM SALVATION: HOW TO MAKE SURE! Mt 3, 5/1/22

GETTING OUR FEET WET- How can I be sure I’m going to heaven?

- The number one question of the average Christian
- The loved one on their death bed
- Average Americans
 - 64% believe that they will go to heaven
 - 1 out of _____ believe they will go to hell
- Average Jews of Jesus’ day
- What did John the Baptist believe?

DIVING INTO SCRIPTURE -Mt 3- 5 THINGS JOHN KNEW

I. JOHN KNEW ABOUT THE KINGDOM

- The kingdom of God is where God’s perfect w_____ is followed willingly- Mt 6:10
- God’s kingdom = His presence - glorious, good, harmony, peace, love, joy, blessed- Rom 14:17

TIME	PLACE OF THE KINGDOM	PEOPLE OF THE KINGDOM
Eternity	Heaven	Angels, saved who died
Now	Earth- in the hearts, lives & lips of the...	Saved who seek His perfect will
Future	Christ’s return, Judgement, Millennium, New Heaven & Earth	Angels & saved, died & alive
Near	Available & Urgent = you must make a d_____	

II. JOHN KNEW WHO HE WAS- John’s mission- A voice calling – Isa 40:3-5

- A. What he said
 1. God’s side- Kingdom & King are near, salvation & judgment
 2. Our side- Prepare- believe, repent, get baptized, produce fruit
- B. How he said it- like Elijah Mal 4:5
 1. Where he was- in the wilderness
 2. How he dressed & what he ate-

III. JOHN KNEW WHO JESUS WAS -see also Jn 1:19-40, 3:22-30

- A. Jesus compared to John
 1. More powerful than I
 2. Existed before me- Jn 1:15,30
- B. Jesus’ relationship to God
 1. The Messiah- anointed King, Savior, Judge- Jn 3:28
 2. The lamb of God- Jn1:29, Isa 53:7
 3. God’s declaration – “My Son- love- well pleased” – Spirit anointed, Ps 2:7, Isa 42:1

- C. God Himself??- Luke 1:43- could John have believed in the deity of Jesus? - Jewish theology-
 1. God is creator, King, above all.
 2. God is close- Spirit, Angel of the Lord, Law, Temple, Messiah
- D. John's response
 1. Not worthy to carry his sandals- obedient, submitted, humble
 2. A worshipper- leaping for joy, friend of the bridegroom- Jn 3:22-30, Lk 1:39-45

IV. JOHN KNEW WHAT JESUS WAS GOING TO DO

- A. Forgive- a baptism of repentance, confessing their sin
- B. Baptize
 1. Baptize with the Holy Spirit – save & fill- absolutely needed
 - Rom 8¹³ for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. (see also Gal 5:16-24)
 2. Baptize with fire- judge
 - Burn chaff & trees with no fruit, BUT gather wheat into His barn
 - Jesus taught he'd separate- wheat & weeds, good & bad fish, wedding guests, wise & foolish virgins, talents, sheep & goats

V. JOHN KNEW WHAT WE NEED TO DO

- A. Keep b _____ - modeled, implied, commanded elsewhere
 1. Believe in the facts:
 - The kingdom is near
 - Jesus will judge with fire
 - Jesus will forgive and baptize with the Holy Spirit (empowering us)
 2. Believe = keep trusting, relying, resting, having confidence & assurance, resulting in obedience
 3. Faith in faith = works, faith in Jesus = rest & results
 - Rom 1:5 “call people...to the obedience that comes from faith”
 - Jas 2- “Faith with no works is dead. The demons also believe and tremble.”
- B. Keep r _____
 1. Defined
 - a. Intellect- Change your thinking- being a Jew is not enough, all will be judged
 - b. Emotion- Regret your sins- sorrow, grieve-
 - c. Will- Change your conduct- produce fruit- Lk 3:10-14- share, don't overcharge, be content with your pay
 2. Is repentance for today?
 - a. Jesus-
 - Unless you repent, become like little children you all will likewise perish- Lk 11:3,5, 18:17
 - Proclaim repentance for forgiveness of sins in His name to all the nations- Lk 24:47

- To the 7 churches- Repent (8x) or I will remove your lampstand, fight you with the sword of my mouth, cast you on a bed of suffering, come like a thief, spew you out of my mouth...”
- b. Paul- Acts 20²¹ I solemnly testified to both Jews and Greeks of repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. 26²⁰ I kept declaring to all people everywhere, that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds appropriate to repentance.
- 3. How is repentance not a work? Isn't it justification by faith alone? Eph 2:8
 - a. Yes, we are saved by faith-and what is faith-mental assent, right doctrine, sinners' prayer?
 - b. Or is faith intellectual, emotional & volitional agreement, trust, rest that leads to John's 4 steps- believe, repent, baptism, produce fruits? Steps are a congruent overflow of real faith.
 - c. Martin Luther- **“We are saved by faith alone, but the faith that saves is never alone.”**
 - d. **God gives us the power to repent- Word & Spirit- conviction, empowerment, circumstances – Rom 2:4, Acts 1:8, II Pet 1:3**
 - e. Repentance is NOT a work when it is a response to the Spirit & truth, an act of faith, contrition and love
- 4. Examples- sinful woman anointing Jesus, Zacchaeus, thief on the cross (Lk 7,19, 23),
- 5. How can we make repentance a grace filled habit? - see Taking It Home- Truth Chart, Kingdom Prayer
- C. Get baptized- Mt 28:18-20, Mk 16:16, Acts 2:38, Rom 6:3- make our decision public
- D. Produce fruit –
 1. A solid teaching throughout the Bible
 - Dt 28- blessings & curses based upon behavior, our response to God's covenant
 - Ezek 18:19-32- if a righteous person forsakes & relies on his righteousness..
 - Jesus- will judge between trees, soils, wheat & weeds, fish, talents, sheep & goats
 2. How is producing fruit not a work? Same answer as repentance

	THE KINGDOM FOLLOWER	THE MODERN “CHRISTIAN”
Faith	Confidence (in facts) that results in obedience. Point in time & life-long.	Mental assent, point in time, do not need to follow through
Repentance	Change of mind, heart and action. Life-long.	Not needed, or else just a change of mind about Jesus, justification by faith
Jesus	King, Savior, Lord, Model, Friend	Savior yes, Lord optional, extra credit
Holy Spirit	Essential- the only way to live the Christian/kingdom life	Optional- kind of scary, loss of rewards
Purpose	To go to heaven & bring heaven down To be like Jesus- word, thought, deed	To go to heaven- minimum entrance requirement
Love God	In all of life	Optional- at church, devotions, giving
Love Neighbor	Essential- part of the kingdom	Optional- loss of rewards

– Disciple/follower- 268x in NT, Christian- ____x (see Right Now Media, John Ortberg, “Kingdoms”)