

Matthew 7:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

Analysis

The most terrifying words in Scripture: 'I never knew you.' Not 'I once knew you but you fell away,' but 'I never knew you.' Despite their religious works and supernatural ministry, Jesus never had relationship with them. They worked iniquity—lawlessness—showing that apparent Christian activity masked unregenerate hearts.

Historical Context

This warning echoes Jesus's teaching about entering through the narrow gate. Many claim Christianity, perform religious activities, even minister powerfully—yet lack genuine saving relationship with Christ. External religion without internal regeneration damns.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. Do you know Jesus personally and intimately, or do you merely know about Him and serve Him externally?

2. What evidence in your life demonstrates that Jesus knows you and you know Him?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	τότε	όμολογήσω	αὐτοῖς	ὅτι	Οὐδέποτε	ἔγνων	ὑμᾶς
And	then	will I profess	unto them	G3754	I never	knew	you
G2532	G5119	G3670	G846		G3763	G1097	G5209
ἀποχωρεῖτε	ἀπ'	ἐμοῦ	οἱ	ἐργαζόμενοι	τὴν	ἀνομίαν	
depart	from	me	G3588	ye that work	G3588	iniquity	
G672	G575	G1700		G2038		G458	

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 25:41 (Parallel theme): Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

Psalms 6:8 (Sin): Depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity; for the LORD hath heard the voice of my weeping.

Luke 13:25 (Parallel theme): When once the master of the house is risen up, and hath shut to the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us; and he shall answer and say unto you, I know you not whence ye are:

Luke 13:27 (Sin): But he shall say, I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity.

Matthew 25:12 (Parallel theme): But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.

John 10:14 (Parallel theme): I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.

Revelation 22:15 (Parallel theme): For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.

Psalms 5:5 (Sin): The foolish shall not stand in thy sight: thou hatest all workers of iniquity.

2 Timothy 2:19 (Sin): Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

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