

# North Christian Church - Pastor Ed Collins

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12/1/15 - The Gospel, Salvation, & Sanctification - Part 22

## Outline:

### **The Proof of Your Faith**

Faith must be put to the test in order to consummate it (ala 1Pe 1:7). Faithfulness is fruit of faith, but never a substitute for it. Even an unbeliever can be faithful in a religious context (Mt 7:21-23).

### **The Proof of Your Faith**

For believers, salvation (deliverance) is a function of faith, not faithfulness. *"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen"* (Heb 11:1).

### **The Proof of Your Faith**

Those who lack faith are not given a sense of assurance, but rather are shown that their so-called "faith" was, at best, faith in their own faithfulness (eg: human good).

### **Mt 6:1 [Message]**

*"Be especially careful when you are trying to be good so that you don't make a performance out of it. It might be good theater, but the God who made you won't be applauding."*

### **Mt 6:2 [Message]**

*"When you do something for someone else, don't call attention to yourself. You've seen them in action, I'm sure-'playactors' I call them-treating prayer meeting and street corner alike as a stage, acting compassionate as long as someone is watching, playing to the crowds. They get applause, true, but that's all they get."*

### **Mt 6:3-4 [Message]**

*"When you help someone out, don't think about how it looks. Just do it-quietly and unobtrusively. That is the way your God, who conceived you in love, working behind the scenes, helps you out."*

### **Mt 6:5 [Message]**

*"And when you come before God, don't turn that into a theatrical production either. All these people making a regular show out of their prayers, hoping for stardom! Do you think God sits in a box seat?"*

### **Mt 6:6 [Message]**

*"Here's what I want you to do: Find a quiet, secluded place so you won't be tempted to role-play before God. Just be there as simply and honestly as you can manage. The focus will shift from you to God, and you will begin to sense his grace."*

### **Mt 6:7-8 [Message]**

*"The world is full of so-called prayer warriors who are prayer-ignorant. They're full of formulas and programs and advice, peddling techniques for getting what you want from God. Don't fall for that nonsense. This is your Father you are dealing with, and he knows better than you what you need. With a God like this loving you, you can pray very simply."*

### **Mt 6:19-21 [Message]**

*"Don't hoard treasure down here where it gets eaten by moths and corroded by rust or-worse!-stolen by burglars. Stockpile treasure in heaven, where it's safe from moth and rust and burglars. It's obvious, isn't it? The place where your treasure is, is the place you will most want to be, and end up being."*

**"What do I value most in this world?"**

**"through the grace given to me I say"**

the essence of Paul's person was grace-orientation; he always made a point of reminding his disciples of this simple fact (e.g.: 1Co 15:10)

**"What do I value most in this world?"**

### **Unbroken Ties**

Unsaved man will remain in the condition in which he was born - that is, totally and integrally tied to the domain of darkness (let that sink in). He cannot, no matter how vigorously he tries, break the ties that bind him.

### **Breaking the Ties That Bind**

This is precisely why a surrender must occur in the heart and soul of an unbeliever BEFORE God will grant them repentance and saving faith. ONLY God is capable of accomplishing this!

### **Salvation**

Only God can grant repentance since man's entire person is bound to the self-life prior to being regenerated. Man is incapable of breaking that fleshly bond - he is powerless to do so - therefore, GOD grants repentance (aka the breaking of the fleshly bonds) AND also grants the "new" tie that binds, faith in Jesus Christ.

### **Grace**

Repentance is an act of God upon a humble heart. It is no more work and no less a grace gift than saving faith.

### **Mt 3:8**

*"Therefore bear fruit in keeping with repentance"*

### **The Proof of Salvation**

The Bible instructs people who believe in Christ to make sure they perform the deeds that come with true repentance. For that is the evidence that their faith is genuine (Mt 3:7-10, Lk 3:7-14, 19:8-9, Jn 8:39-42, Ac 26:19-21), from John the Baptist, to the Lord Jesus, to the Apostle Paul, and the letters of James and John.

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### **God's Perfect Gift**

If a person has been GIVEN repentance from God, it means that the fruit they bear will be after its own kind! This doesn't mean a person won't ever sin again; rather, it means that the new creature will be repulsed by sin (the bad fruit of the old life).

### **Repentance and the Vestiges of Sin**

For a true believer, it's going to feel like even though you've turned your back on sin (repented), it will remain "behind your back" trying to sow death in your life.

### **The Gospel**

The issue is the sovereign, holy God of the universe and how He has been offended, NOT how His Gospel might be offensive to man.

### **The Gospel**

A gospel without integrity to the fullness of the Person of Jesus Christ is a false gospel. Any presentation of the true Gospel must unapologetically impose a relationship between Christ and an individual.

### **Personal Relationships**

One of the fundamental reasons that God became man was to personally relate to His creatures and provide a way for His creatures to personally relate to Him!

### **The Great Commission**

For many years (2+ decades for most books), the NT was circulating among people, unwritten. The presentation of the Gospel was through personal interactions. Relationships were key, not written words or tracts. Jesus fully expected that people would be presenting His good news to other people this way.