By What Right Do Ye Enter? Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven" Matthew 7:21.

Many people expect to go to heaven when this life is over. When you listen to some speak of their beliefs it is often hard to understand their line of thought. I have heard some who seemed to feel that what God has said didn't matter too much. When told of what the scripture said about certain doctrines they get angry that the Bible would be brought up. It is like the person who said, "Don't confuse me with the facts - I've already made up my mind!"

It has been said that heaven is a prepared place for a prepared proof? people. God has shown that not just anyone will enter in, but those who are ready. The Lord has set the requirements and made the way for entrance into heaven. Jesus is the door by which a

man must enter. There is no other way as we read in Acts 4:12. How could any man hope to stand before the Lord and declare himself fit to enter when he has lived without God all his life? Jesus spoke of those who would tell of doing religious works, yet be denied entrance into heaven.

Some will tell you that if you say that you believe in God you will be accepted. That sounds good to many people because it doesn't place any restrictions on how they live. The only problem that I can see, is that it conflicts with what the Lord says. Look at Matthew 7:21. Jesus said that some would call Him Lord. He even said that there were those who did good works in Jesus' name. That shows that they believed enough to call Him Lord, yet they were denied admission into heaven.

Saying it, that you believe, by itself, is not enough. Want

Revelation 22:14, "Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. 15. For without are dogs, and sor-

cerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie."

This is just one place where the Lord tells us that we show our faith by how we live. The Lord has revealed His will to us by His Word, so we cannot say that we don't know. We can see how Israel was punished, throughout history, for disobeying.

Even the angels that sinned were punished; so, how can man think that he can do his own will and be accepted by God? The devil has been a deceiver from the beginning, and we are warned that he is an enemy of all that will live for the Lord. Why then will people listen to that which is false and follow the path that leads to destruction?

If a man would go to heaven, instead of hell, he must go in the path that Jesus has set for us. 1 Peter 2:21.

Many times I think of how the old song says it, "Trust and obey, for there's no other way."

Those may be words from a song but they declare a Biblical Truth - we must obey the Lord that we say that we believe in.

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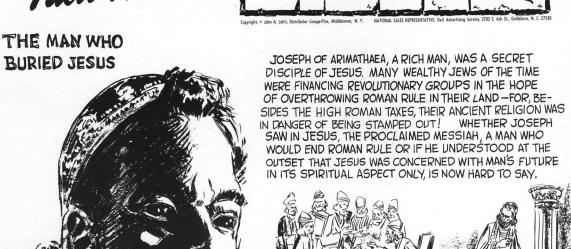
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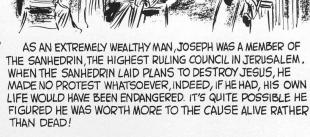
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