

## Some Confused Folks

It is obvious that a lot of people think they are doing "many wonderful works" for the Lord (Matt. 7:22). However, they are sadly mistaken. Instead of being engaged in wonderful works they are in reality engaged in works of iniquity. And instead of being the favorites of heaven, as they think, they are in reality abominable in the sight of the Lord. Instead of being welcomed into heaven as they think, He will say unto them, "I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

If such people were capable of thinking soberly about the matter they would be hesitant to think so highly of their own works. God's word makes it clear that those who are judged out of *the books* "according to their *works*" will be cast into the lake of fire (Rev. 20:12-15). The ones who are "not found written in the book of life," are the same ones who are judged "according to their works."

We notice in Matthew 25 that it is those who *have not* ministered to Christ who think they *have* done so, and those who *have* who think they *have not*. And it is those who think they *have* who "shall go away into everlasting punishment, and those who think they *haven't* who will go "into life eternal" (verses 32-46). In view of these things the prospects for those who are so proud of what they've done for the Lord do not look

at all favorable. I much prefer to be numbered with those who dwell upon what the Lord has done for *them* instead of what they have done for *Him* and whose heartfelt sentiments are, "Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory, for thy mercy, and for thy truth's sake."

Those who are believers in God are instructed to be careful to maintain good works (Titus 3:8), but they should also realize that those works are **fruits of the Spirit** and not **currency by which to purchase eternal life**. The Lord has told us in His word the things that are pleasing to Him and if we do those things we will do well. But if we view what we do religiously as being what gets us to heaven, we are in for a sad awakening at some point.

—Elder Ralph Harris