

## KINGDOM EXCLUSION FOR WHOM?

Some formerly sound Baptists are beginning to teach Kingdom Exclusion for certain born again believers. The proof texts that they are using are mind boggling. Some go beyond Kingdom Exclusion, namely Joey Faust, who believes that believers will spend the excluded time of 1,000 years either in the lake of fire or hell fire. We have addressed a few of them. – Herb Evans

### The Excluded Unbelieving Professors in the Mixed Multitude?

Let us therefore fear, lest, a **promise** being left *us* of entering into his rest, **any of you should seem to come short of it**. For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but **the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it**. For we **which have believed do enter** into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world. For he spake in a certain place of the seventh *day* on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works. And in this *place* again, If they shall enter into my rest. Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief: Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David . . . To day **if ye will hear his voice**, harden not your hearts. For if Jesus had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day. There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God *did* from his. Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man **fall after** the same example of **UNBELIEF** -- Heb 4:1-12

This passage is used by Lose your salvationists, Joey Faust's "Overcomers' Cult," and some kingdom exclusionists to prove that some Christians will be excluded from the millennial kingdom and even put into the lake of fire. From the very first part of this passage, we are told that some will come short of the promise. The reason is clearly given; the word does not *PROFIT* those that do not believe in that the preached word is not mixed with the *FAITH* of them that heard it. Faith is an important ingredient in either Testament for salvation, regardless of what side of the dispensational issue that you espouse. The next thing that should be noticed is that those that do believe *DO ENTER IN*. For those false professors that still have not exercised faith, the warning invitation is given. *TODAY* (both Testaments) *IF* you will hear His voice, don't harden your hearts or *FALL* through *UNBELIEF*. No carnality mention here. No adultery, fornication, idolatry—*UNBELIEF*! There are only two categories here—*BELIEVERS* and *UNBELIEVING PROFESSORS*. Those who mixed their faith with the preached word and those who do not mix faith with the preached word in the mixed multitude of scattered Jews in this dispersion.

### The Least and the Great versus the Excludes?

Whosoever therefore shall **break one of these *LEAST* commandments**, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the ***LEAST* in the kingdom of heaven**: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called ***GREAT* in the kingdom of heaven**. For I say unto you, That except **your righteousness** shall exceed the **righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees**, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven. –Matt 5:19, 20

Matthew 5:20 is used by Lose your Salvationists, the Joey Faust's "Overcomers' Cult," and some **Kingdom exclusionists, some of which believe that certain Christians also go to the lake of fire. The problem that these folks** have is that they fail to read Matthew 5:19 with 5:20. This passage tells us that we as believers can break even the *LEAST* of His commandments and still get into the kingdom, but we shall have a lesser place than the great ones that do and teach them. Now, the kingdom exclusionist may help to divide for us the least and great commandments, which if violated are all sin, unless we go the Catholic route of Mortal, Venial, and Sacrilege sins.

The rest of the problem is that Matthew 5:20 shifts to the unbelieving scribes and Pharisees, who will not even *ENTER* let alone be least or great. Why, because they do not have God's Exceeding Righteousness; they merely have their own self righteousness. Say what you want about the Gospel period, Jesus still told the woman, thy faith hath saved thee and told Zaccheus that salvation had come to his house that day.

What is clear in this passage is that these Jews would be excluded from the kingdom, who were children of the kingdom (key verse in the Jewish kingdom dialogues in the Gospels), because they were not believers but apostate religious leaders. The others were told that their righteousness must exceed this self righteousness.

### The Excluded Rich?

Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven. And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. When his disciples heard *it*, they were exceedingly amazed, saying, Who then can be saved? But Jesus beheld *them*, and said unto them, **With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.** -- Mat 19:23-26

Kingdom exclusionists are like Campbellites, when they see water in the Bible; only they go spastic over kingdom scriptures. Why Kingdom exclusionists and the Lose your salvationists would choose something like this to exclude carnal or disobedient Christians from the kingdom, I'll never know. Without any explanation, the only thing that they could exclude with this verse would be rich Christians. And the churches need some of them.

Still, the scriptures are not even teaching that rich Christians are excluded from the kingdom let alone any other Christian. Of course, Peter, unlike kingdom exclusionists, puts his finger squarely on the problem. Who can be saved if not any rich people? Jesus was teaching how riches can blind men to spiritual things and get in the way of salvation and conversion. Of course, it did not stop Zaccheus. Nevertheless, Jesus clears it all up by saying that with men such things are impossible, but not with God, for all things are possible with him.

### **The Excluded Never-Knows?**

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. Many **will say** to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, **I never knew you:** depart from me, ye that work iniquity. Mat 7:21, 22, 23

Lose your salvationists, Joey Faust's "Overcomers' Cult," and some Kingdom Exclusionists (some of which also teach that certain Christians go to the lake of fire), use Matthew 7:21, 22 to prove their theories. Well, Judas did all these nice things and yes, he was and is excluded from the kingdom . . . **BECAUSE HE WAS LOST! NEVER SAVED!** The problem for these folks is Jesus comment in verse 23. **I NEVER KNEW YOU.** Not knew you and lost you. Not now knew you and excluded you. But **NEVER KNEW YOU.** Praise de Lawd! Hallelujah! Does I have a witness? Thank you Jesus!

### **The Excluded Non-Born-Agains?**

Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. --John 3:5

When I heard that someone was using this verse to prove spirit exclusion for certain Christians, I almost did a John Kerry. Clearly, the requirement for exclusion here is not having two births. We have here a physical birth (depending what camp you are in) and a spiritual birth which most will agree. Now, we see the saved and the lost here, the born again and the non-born again. Unless you can get undo one's spiritual birth, you are beating a rented mule. So angels won't cut it, having neither birth. Lost people can't cut it, not having a spiritual birth. Saved people can't miss it, having both births.

### **The Excluded Unconverted?**

**Except ye be converted,** and become as little children, **ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.** Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Mat 18:3, 4

But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child shall in no wise enter therein. --Luke 18:17, 18

Why in the world anyone would pick passages like this to prove that you could lose your salvation or be excluded from the kingdom as a believer or be thrown into the lake of fire as a believer, is beyond us. The humbling of oneself as a child in **CONVERSION**, pride less, workless, simply relying on Jesus Christ despite how much of the details one knew. They knew Jesus was the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world. Was that not enough! Does it not tell us that as many as received him, to them gave he the power to become the sons of God even to them that believe on His Name. If a man cannot see the lack of conversion as the reason for exclusion, he is blind. Children believe with ease, adults do not.

### **The Unrighteous and Unwashed Excluded?**

Know ye not that the **unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God?** Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such **WERE** some of you: **but ye are washed,** but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God. **All things are lawful unto me,** but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any. -- 1 Cor. 6:9-12

The spiritually blind Kingdom Exclusionists, the Overcomer cultist, and the Lose your salvationist cannot see that this is talking about the unrighteous, but was is a little context to them? The believer is not in the "unrighteous" category; he is in the righteousness of Christ category. Notice the pejorative names; they are what believers **"WERE!"** But Believers are **NOW WASHED** in the blood of Christ. They are no longer to be called those things since they are counted dead and hid in Christ, something these false teachers do not have a clue about. Still, the believer may do as he pleases. But a true believer will be chastised, and although all things are lawful, all things are not expedient. You cannot be excluded from the kingdom because of lawful things even having bad music in your church.

### **The Non-Spirit Led Excluded?**

*This* I say then, **Walk in the Spirit,** and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye **cannot** do the things that ye would. **But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.** Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are *these*; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told *you* in time past, that **they** which do such things **shall not inherit the kingdom of God.** --Gal 5:16-21

The believer gets the Holy Spirit of God the moment that he repents and believes, for if any man have not the Spirit, he is none of His. All believers are *LED* by the Spirit of God and are therefore *NOT* under the law. They do not always follow the Spirit, however, but they are always led—that is His part. The believer’s part is to *WALK* in the Spirit that is leading him. This is a bit of the same as found in 1 Cor. 6. Believers are washed and righteous. All things are lawful but all things are not expedient and we should not be brought under the power of any of those sins. Whereas the law specifies these things to the non spirit led, namely, the lost, the unsaved, the non-righteous, the unwashed. To the believer, they become works of the flesh that should not be named among believers, but they are, and we are being realists in this. In reality, the believer cannot do such things, for he is dead and his life is hid with God. You cannot put a dead man on the witness stand. Nor can you charge him with a crime (especially a crime that is already paid for).

### **The Non Present with the Lord Excluded?**

Therefore *we are* always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: (For we walk by faith, not by sight :) We are **confident**, *I say*, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be **present with the Lord**. Wherefore **we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him**. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things *done* in *his* body, according to that he hath done, **whether it be good or bad**. Knowing therefore **the terror of the Lord, we persuade men**; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences. --2 Cor. 5:6-11

This is a Joey Faust proof text for the lake of fire for carnal Christians view and being killed at the JSOC and exclusion from the kingdom. The idea here is that if you are good, you get the kingdom and are accepted and if you do badly you get a lump of coal and are not accepted into the kingdom. The problem is that the “Overcomer Cult” and the kingdom exclusionist can’t tell you how much good is enough to get you in or how much bad is enough to keep you out (so much like Catholics). Now, certainly we labour to be accepted of him. Should we labour not to be accepted? Should we not look for a “well done thou good and faithful servant?” But accepted for what? The kingdom? Where does it say that? Where does it mention “kingdom.” Oh, doctrine by innuendo and inference, I see.

Personally, like Paul, I am confident that I will be with the Lord when I escape my body. Paul teaches two categories of believers here, *PRESENT* (alive) or *ABSENT* (death or rapture) *ALL* Believers appear and the labour of all believers is accepted to some degree. *ALL* believers “attain” the resurrection to some degree. All believers will be ashamed at something; *ALL* believers will suffer some loss; *ALL* believers will receive some wood, hay, and stubble as well as some gold, silver, and precious stones in varying amounts. This is not a Communist or a Socialist JSOC. Still, few will receive *FULL* reward.

The acceptance of all believers, whether present (alive) or whether absent (dead or raptured) is regarding the acceptance of our labour and its subsequent rewards, whether good--gold, silver, precious stones or bad--wood, hay, stubble. Notice that *EVERY ONE* may receive good *AND* bad for the things done in the body, i.e., works, *NOT SINS*. The good refers to the rewardable good works of gold, silver, and precious stones (works or labour done for Christ) and the bad refer to the rewardable bad works of wood hay and stubble (works or labour not done for Christ). All the works rewards are tried by fire after everyone receives their share of each unless one gets full reward.

The “Overcomers’ Cult” and the Kingdom Exclusionists would have you believe that the good refers to the rewardable things and the bad refers to your sins. One group of rewards comes through the fire; the other group of rewards does not and are burned (not believers but works). Joey Faust in his narrow view of acceptance here is that of being rejected and not “attaining the resurrection” and the “kingdom.” Joey Faust thinks that the terror of the Lord kills believers at the JSOC (even though he cannot find it in JSOC passages) rather than receiving something as a reward. He believes that the lake of fire is meant without finding one passage (without Faust interpolation) that puts believers in the lake of fire or excludes them from the kingdom. Notice who it is that is persuaded here - *MEN* not believers. There is no hell fire terror for believers anywhere.

Only the lost will *NOT* be present with the Lord at JSOC; they will wait in the dust of the earth (their bodies). Their departed souls are in hell or will be there until the Great White Throne Judgment, when they will be united with their bodies and stand before God. By then, all believers will have already reigned with Christ on earth. Joey Faust believes that a carnal believer’s body is raised but not resurrected at the JSOC. We believe that all believers stand at the JSOC in their new, glorified, resurrected bodies. The issue here is *RECEIVING* and *REWARDING* at the JSOC for whatever works or labour for Christ that were done in the old body. The new body cannot and does not get punished as the Faustites think.

-- by Herb Evans