

## **THOSE WHO CANNOT BE SAVED – 2 PETER 3:8-14**

### **INTRODUCTION**

1. God has placed salvation within the reach of every single person (**Matt. 28:19-20; Titus 2:11**).
2. However, the sad truth is that many will not be saved, in fact they cannot be saved (**Matt. 22:14**).
3. But why is this true?
  - a. Is it because of some weakness in the gospel (**Rom. 1:16**)?
  - b. Is it because God is a respecter of persons (**Acts 10:34-35**)?
  - c. Is it because we simply cannot understand God's will for us (**Rom. 1:19-20; Eph. 3:4**)?
4. If not these, then why is it that many cannot be saved?
5. And who are those who cannot be saved?

### **DISCUSSION**

#### **I. THOSE WHO DON'T DESIRE IT**

- A. As hard as it is to accept, there are some who do not want to be saved.
- B. For whatever reason, they simply don't want to believe, be with, or submit to God.
- C. Perhaps they suppress the truth in unrighteousness (**Rom. 1:18**).
- D. Or they do not want to know or refuse to love the truth (**2 Thess. 2:10-11**).
- E. Remember, love cannot be forced or coerced – it must be freely chosen.
- F. And instead of desiring to love God, they reject Him and His offer of salvation.
- G. They will not ask for it, they will not seek God for it (**Matt. 7:7-11; Phil. 2:12**).
- H. As C.S. Lewis rightly observed, "There are only two kinds of people in the end: those who say to God, "Thy will be done," and those to whom God says, in the end, "Thy will be done." All that are in Hell, choose it. Without that self-choice there could be no Hell. No soul that seriously and constantly desires joy will ever miss it. Those who seek find. Those who knock it is opened."

#### **II. THOSE WHO WANT TO CONTINUE IN SIN**

- A. But then there are some who want nothing to do with any salvation that would require them to give up their sinful ways and change their lives.
- B. It is hard for some of us to hear that there is someone, somewhere, who has the right and power to tell us "no" and to tell us we are wrong.
- C. But the Scripture warns about taking pleasure in sin (**2 Thess. 2:12; Rom. 1:32; Phil. 3:18**).
- D. It tells us that our sin problem is again a choice between our own selfish desires and God's desires (**Jas. 1:13-14**).
- E. It warns that we can sear our conscience so much that we can be consumed by sin and that at some point God will give us up and let us go our own way (**Rom. 1:24, 26, 28**).
- F. And it tells us the truth about sin.
- G. Its pleasures are passing and don't last forever (**Heb. 11:25; 1 John 2:15-17**).
- H. In the end, sin brings separation from God now and in eternity (**Isa. 59:1-2; Rom. 6:23; Jas. 1:15**).

#### **III. THOSE WHO TRUST IN THEMSELVES**

- A. And there are still those who, like some of the Pharisees and Scribes of Jesus' day, trust "in themselves that they are righteous" (**Luke 18:9**).
- B. Perhaps they are among those who claim to be religious and follow God, but their zeal is not according to a true knowledge of God's will (**Rom. 10:1-3**).

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- C. Or they may be among those who feel they don't need God to instruct them on what their purpose is or what they should do or how they should live.
- D. Instead, they rely on their own intellect, family, or culture to guide them in life.
- E. Either way they don't understand that this cannot and will not save them.
- F. No one can trust in themselves and be saved (**Jer. 10:23**).
- G. Although we may be supremely confident in choosing our own way, thinking that we are right, we are mistaken (**Prov. 14:12**).
- H. If we want to be saved, we must humble ourselves and accept the fact that God is wiser than us and that we need to please Him and not ourselves (**1 Cor. 1:25; Rom. 1:22; Gal. 1:10**).

### **IV. THOSE WHO WON'T FORGIVE & FORGET**

- A. Another person who cannot expect to be saved is the one who refuses to forgive others, the one who holds grudges.
- B. How many of us have seen or maybe even witnessed the damage done when one is overtaken in this (**Gen. 4:4-8; Mark 6:22-28**)?
- C. Scripture warns us about the true danger that is lurking behind such behavior (**Lev. 19:18**).
- D. The reality is that there is no one who hasn't sinned against God and in need of His forgiveness (**Rom. 3:23; Eccl. 7:20; 1 Kings 8:46**).
- E. Despite our transgressions against God, He is ready and willing to forgive if we repent and turn (**John 3:16; 1 John 2:2; 1 John 1:9-10**).
- F. If we cannot forgive those who have sinned against us, then there is no hope for us to find forgiveness with Him (**Matt. 6:14-15**).
- G. May the Lord help us to not be the kind of person who refuses to forgive, who "breaks the bridge over which he himself must pass."

### **V. THOSE WHO PROCRASTINATE**

- A. Another person who cannot be saved is the one who would put off giving their life to Jesus.
- B. They think to themselves, "I've got plenty of time to straighten my life up."
- C. They believe that they can put off faith and obedience to Jesus until tomorrow or maybe later in life.
- D. While we like to sometimes think that this is something only young people struggle with, the truth is it can strike anyone at any time (**Acts 24:24-25; 26:28**).
- E. But the reality is that none of us has a lease on life (**Jas. 4:14**).
- F. The only one who knows the future is God.
- G. We don't know what tomorrow may bring.
- H. Today is the only day we have and now is the day of salvation (**2 Cor. 6:2**).

## **CONCLUSION**

1. As we think about each of these people who cannot be saved, it should cause some self-reflection.
2. What about you and me?
3. God is calling people to Him to be saved in the gospel (**2 Thess. 2:14**).
4. If we refuse to answer and obey, we cannot be saved (**2 Thess. 1:7-9**).
5. But if we answer His call in trusting and obedient faith, in heartfelt loyal love we can be (**Luke 9:23-26; Rom. 10:9-10; Acts 2:38; Rev. 12:11**).