**Matt 25:30 The Unprofitable Servant**

Matt 25:30 reads "And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth," and then Jesus discusses the judgment day.

According to this text then, we must be a servant Jesus. Not only that, we must be a profitable servant. Else we will be cast into outer darkness (h-e-l-l) on the judgment day, we will be lost.

Many preachers will tell you all you have to do to be saved is believe in Jesus, but we all know there is a big difference in just believing a King exists and serving that King. So to avoid being lost, we not only must believe in King Jesus (Rev 17:14), but we must serve King Jesus. And not only must we serve Jesus, but we must serve him profitably.

But just how do we **serve** Jesus profitably?

As we've already noted, more than just belief is involved. We also must obey him as Heb 5:9 says "And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him." So only those who obey Jesus will be saved eternally, and that would include obeying him in baptism in order to become a Christian in the first place. Mark 16:16 reads "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be [condemned]."

But after we become a servant of Jesus (a Christian), how do we continue to serve him **profitably**? Let's look at some passages along those lines ...

Heb 10:24-25 reads "And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." The first thing we need to do as a Christian, to be a profitable servant of the Lord, is to attend church services faithfully. There we worship God, learn His word, and as this passage teaches - encourage others toward love and good works. If we are not doing that, we are not being profitable to the cause of Christ like we should be.

Talking about learning from God's word, we should study it daily. Acts 17:11 says about the Bereans - "These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so." Studying God's word is how we make sure we are on the right path instead of being led astray by false teachers (Matt 15:14), and how we learn enough to teach others.

That brings us to another very important point about how to be profitable to the cause of Christ. And that is trying to persuade the lost to become Christians (II Cor 5:11). Acts 8:4 says about the whole church in that day, that they "went every where preaching the word." How could one say they are profitable to the cause of Christ if they are not out there at least trying to convert others to the Lord?

One last point. We are not a profitable servant of Christ unless we are abiding in the teaching of Christ - what we believe, teach, and practice must match up with the word of God, the truth (John 8:31-32). II John 9 confirms this by saying "Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son."