

Ezekiel 33:30-32

"As for you, son of man, the children of your people are talking about you beside the walls and in the doors of the houses; and they speak to one another, everyone saying to his brother, 'Please come and hear what the word is that comes from the LORD.' So they come to you as people do, they sit before you as My people, and they hear your words, but they do not do them; for with their mouth they show much love, but their hearts pursue their own gain. Indeed you are to them as a very lovely song of one who has a pleasant voice and can play well on an instrument; for they hear your words, but they do not do them.

On Sunday morning, do you regret having to go to church?

Does it become more of a chore rather than a privilege or a joy to go to church?

Maybe you sit there in church each week, pretending everything is ok when it's not, putting on your Sunday best to put on a show for others; Therefore, everyone thinks that you are a good Christian and you got it all together. But as soon as church is over, you can't wait to get back to your usual life of sin.

Or maybe you go to church to feel good about what you have done all week. Do you think that by going to church that you're right with God, and that He will forgive you simply because you go to church?

I know these are harsh words to think about over the weekend, but these are words that some of you really need to hear.

As you may know by my teachings, I am not always a "make you feel good" type of teacher. God's word, and the truth of God's word cannot be watered down to make others feel good.

Anyone can go to church, but everyone that goes to church will not be going to heaven.

That's a sad fact, but it's also the truth. Going to church and trying to look good to others or God does not save you, or even pardon your sins. Only by repenting of your sins, and having a relationship with Jesus Christ will you be saved. And you don't need to be at church to repent of your sins or to have that relationship with Jesus. In fact, to have a relationship with Jesus is something that you do 24/7 (24 hours a day 7 days a week) not just for an hour or so on Sunday, or even Wednesday if you so choose to go then as well.

Maybe you do feel good about going to church, but the cleanness you feel goes away before the day is over, or maybe you don't even make it to lunch on Sunday when you feel that emptiness and dirtiness again. You need to remember that we are all sinners and fall short of the glory of God. But **"thanks be to God"** we are forgiven through His Son Jesus Christ.

† **1 Cor 15:57** *But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

So stop the trying to show others how great of a Christian you think they want to see in you, or pretending like you're ok on Sunday when you really are not, and come back to reality. That reality is that you are a sinner, and the only way to heaven is through Jesus Christ! Not through going to church, not by tithing, not by helping that old lady cross the street, not by memorizing scripture, not by singing loud in church, not even being nice to others. No, those are things that we do as a results of our salvation. But once again, salvation only comes through a relationship with Jesus Christ. Then and only then will you feel secure and at peace with God.

Once you do that, you will find joy in going to church on Sunday, and spending time with Jesus the rest of the week as well!

† **Psalm 63:7** *Because you are my helper, I sing for joy in the shadow of your wings.*

† **Psalm 16:11** *You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.*

† **Psalm 140:13** *Surely the righteous shall give thanks to Your name; The upright shall dwell in Your presence.*

† **Acts 2:28** *You have made known to me the ways of life; You will make me full of joy in Your presence.*