

Pastor Mark Daniel
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Sermon Series:
Counterfeit Religion

What is Salvation?

2 Timothy 3:13 (NKJV) But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.

2 Timothy 4:3-4 (NIV) **3** For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. **4** They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.

1 Timothy 4:1 (NLT) Now the Holy Spirit tells us clearly that in the last times some will turn away from the true faith; they will follow deceptive spirits and teachings that come from demons.

Matthew 24:4 Jesus answered watch out that no one deceives you.

Colossians 2:8 Don't let anyone capture you with empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking and from the spiritual powers of this world, rather than from Christ.

False Assurances

1. I TRY TO BE A GOOD PERSON

Colossians 2:13-14 (NLT) You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins. He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross.

2. I BELIEVE IN GOD

James 2:19 You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that —and shudder.

John 17:3 Now this is eternal life: that they **know** you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

3. I GO TO CHURCH

Matthew 7:21-23 **21** “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. **22** Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’ **23** Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’

4. I HAD AN EMOTIONAL EXPERIENCE

Mark 4:15-20 **15** Some people are like seed along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them. **16** Others, like seed sown on rocky places, hear the word and at once receive it with joy. **17** But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. **18** Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; **19** but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful. **20** Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop—some thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times what was sown.”

Biblical Assurances

1. PERSONAL REPENTANCE

Acts 3:19 Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out.

Acts 2:38 And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

2. WITNESS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Romans 8:9,16 **9** You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. **16** The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

3. SPIRITUAL GROWTH & TRANSFORMATION

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

4. PEACE WITH GOD

Romans 5:1 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.