

**(Matt. 7:6)** - The Lord had given a commandment - *“Judge not, that ye be not judged”* (Matt. 7:1). Christ was not forbidding ALL judgment, but all self-righteous judgment. He commands us to judge righteously - *“Judge not according to the appearance, but JUDGE RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT”* (John 7:24). Righteous judgment is based on God’s Word, which is HIS judgment. In this verse Christ commands us NOT to give *“THAT WHICH IS HOLY UNTO DOGS, NEITHER CAST YE YOUR PEARLS BEFORE SWINE, LEST THEY TRAMPLE THEM UNDER THEIR FEET, AND TURN AGAIN AND REND YOU.”* That which He describes as “holy” and as “pearls” is the Gospel of God’s free and sovereign grace in and by the Lord Jesus Christ and salvation based on His righteousness imputed to the praise of God’s glory and grace. The Gospel of Christ reveals and honors the holiness, justice, righteousness, grace, love, and mercy of God. The Gospel is truly a holy truth as it is set apart and distinct from all other pretended man-made ways of salvation (Prov. 14:12; 16:25). It tells us how a holy God can save sinners and still be holy and true to Himself - through the holy work of the Lord Jesus Christ as the Surety, Substitute, and Redeemer of God’s chosen people. This Gospel is a valuable treasure (2 Cor. 4:6-7). All false gospels are unholy and worthless lies.

The mandate from God concerning evangelism is to preach the Gospel everywhere to everyone as God gives us opportunity. Not all will believe and not all will listen. Paul wrote that *“we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish. To the one we are the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life”* (2 Cor. 2:14-17). There are some who will refuse even to hear what we have to say in the Gospel of God’s grace in Christ. These are the ones of whom Christ speaks here. “Dogs” and “swine” were unclean animals and typified those who were so adamantly opposed to the Gospel that they would turn away from it and not give it a moment’s notice (cf. 2 Pet. 2:22). In the Scriptures, “dogs” often refer to false preachers who despise the message of salvation by the grace of God alone in Christ, based on His righteousness imputed alone (Php. 3:2; Isa. 56:11). “Swine” refers to those who were unclean and not fit for the kingdom of God as they refuse to listen to the preaching of the Gospel. As witnesses for Christ in this world, we are told to go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature (Matt. 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16). We are to preach Christ crucified to everyone who will listen. Christ alone calls His sheep to salvation. When dealing with those who are hostile towards the message of God’s sovereign grace in Christ, we must prayerfully judge whether to patiently endeavor to preach the Gospel to them or shake the dust of our feet as a witness against them and leave them alone (cf. Matt. 10:14; Acts 13:44-52; 18:6).

**(Matt. 7:7-8)** - *“ASK, AND IT SHALL BE GIVEN YOU; SEEK, AND YE SHALL FIND; KNOCK, AND IT SHALL BE OPENED UNTO YOU”* - These words do not mean that no matter what you asked God for, He will give it to you. It is not a blank check written in your name and all you have to do is fill in the amount. This has to do with blessings and benefits of salvation that God alone, in power and in grace, brings His people to ask for it, seek it, and knock upon the door of His grace in Christ. Just as dogs and swine want no part of salvation by God’s grace in Christ, God brings His chosen people to desire this salvation and to ask for it, to seek it, and to knock upon the door that gives entrance to His kingdom in and by Christ and His righteousness imputed and believed by God-given faith. Every sinner whom God gives this desire will ask, seek, and knock, and they all without exception are given the gift of salvation, find the way of salvation, and have the door of God’s kingdom in Christ opened unto them - *“FOR EVERY ONE THAT ASKETH RECEIVETH; AND HE THAT SEEKETH FINDETH; AND TO HIM THAT KNOCKETH IT SHALL BE OPENED.”* The Lord said, *“All that the Father giveth Me shall come to Me; and him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out”* (John 6:37). It is the same truth that

states, *“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved”* (Rom. 10:13). If God does not give us a new heart and a new spirit, we will not call upon His name, believe in Christ, and repent of our dead works. If God does not work within us to give us life from the dead, we will not flee to Christ for salvation, forgiveness, righteousness, and eternal life. We will remain as lost and rebellious as any dog or swine (John 5:39-43; 6:44; Rom. 3:10-12; 1 Cor. 1:18; 2:14). But all in whom God’s works in grace and power through Christ will ask, seek, and knock. This shall be saved (John 6:45).

**(Matt. 7:9-11)** - There are some points here that set forth the nature of God’s salvation which He readily and fully, according to His purpose in Christ before the foundation of the world, gives to all His children, His elect. First, if we as naturally sinful and evil men know how to give good gifts to our children, we can be sure that God, Who is all-wise, all-powerful, and merciful, knows how to give good gifts to His children whom He chose in Christ before the world began. If they ask for a fish to feed their hunger and keep them alive, would God give them a poisonous serpent to kill them? NO! God has the abundance of grace and mercy, and He delights to show mercy to His chosen people, His children. He is willing, able, and ready to give them all that they need for salvation and eternal life (Eph. 1:3). And He knows how to give these gifts of salvation in a way that glorifies and honors Him as both a loving, merciful, and gracious Father as well as a just and righteous Judge Who gives them all grace here and glory hereafter through the merits of the obedience unto death of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ (Rom. 8:31-34). The truth of God imputing the sins of His children to Christ and punishing Christ unto death as their Surety, Substitute, and Redeemer, and imputing Christ’s righteousness to them for their justification shows that our heavenly Father knows HOW to give them what they need - a righteous standing before Him and spiritual life from the dead. The Lord knows how to preserve His children unto glory by granting them all wisdom, guidance, forgiveness, and patience as they ask, seek, and knock (2 Pet. 2:9).

Secondly, it is apparent from these verses that all spiritual blessings and benefits are only given to God’s children - the election of grace, chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world (Gal. 4:4-6; Eph. 1:3-11; 2 Tim. 1:8-11; Heb. 2:9-17). This is not revealed to dissuade anyone from asking, seeking, and knocking at the door of salvation as revealed in the Gospel. It is revealed to show that all of salvation is by the sovereign grace and power of God in and by the Lord Jesus Christ and not conditioned on sinners. Sinners are commanded to seek the Lord, to believe in Him, and to repent (Isa. 55:6; Mark 1:15; Acts 17:30-31). The promise is to all who seek, believe, and repent, but we will not seek, believe, and repent in our own power nor of our own volition (1 Cor. 2:14). All who seek, believe, and repent do so because God has given them the gifts of life, knowledge, faith, repentance, and perseverance (Eph. 2:8-10). One may ask, “Am I one of God’s children, chosen in Christ before the world was created?” The answer is this - “Are you interested in seeking and finding righteousness and eternal life God’s way as revealed in His Word in Christ? Can you be satisfied with anything less than what God reveals in His Word? If you can settle for anything less than free and sovereign grace and the perfection of righteousness that can only be found in Christ, and if you live and die in that state of unbelief, you are not one of God’s true children.” But of those who believe in and cling to Christ, the Apostle Paul wrote, *“Knowing, brethren beloved, your election of God. For our Gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake”* (1 Thess. 1:4-5); *“For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth”* (Rom. 10:4), and, as stated, both faith and repentance are gifts from God to His people (Acts 11:18; Eph. 2:8-10; 2 Tim. 2:25).