

**1) The deception of going through life like a Christian. (24-29, 36-39)**

The weeds that Jesus referred to in the parable were almost indistinguishable from wheat. How is it possible for an unbeliever to be deceived into thinking they are a genuine Christian because they look so much like a Christian? Has this happened to you?

Name some things that people do and say that are very much like a Christian but are no guarantee that they are a genuine believer.

Read 2 Corinthians 13:5. Why do you think Paul challenged those in the Corinthian church to examine their salvation. Why is this an important exercise for those who call themselves Christians?

Do you ever doubt your salvation? Why?

Which of these causes of doubt affect you?

- Failing to understand the gospel is for Christians too.
- Re-examining a past "decision" to trust Christ.
- Confusing salvation with sanctification. Hebrews 12: 6
- Spiritual stagnation. 2 Peter 1:5-10
- You have never been saved.

What brings assurance of salvation?

**2) The tragedy of going to hell like a Christian. (30, 40-42)**

What are some ideas that people have about Hell that are not based on truth?

Does it surprise you that half of the Jesus' parables warn of Hell?

What does the existence of Hell where unrepentant sinners will experience God's infinite justice tell us about God's infinite holiness?

Discuss the following statement from C.S. Lewis. *"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.'"*

**3) The opportunity of being made righteous like Christ. (43)**

What make the "righteous" people Jesus refers to in verse 43 righteous? Read Romans 3:20-22.

**Additional Scripture**

- Ephesians 2:1-10
- Romans 3:10, 23, 26
- Matthew 26:21-25
- 1 John 2:19
- 2 Peter 1:5-10
- Romans 10:9-13