

GOSPEL PEARLS

God or idols?

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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. "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell

with a great crash.” (Matthew 7:21.24-27)

Those who think they are Christians only because they say so are lying to themselves. Those who have tried to discern God's will, above all through prayer and then obey it through the actions of their own existence, will enter heaven. Our entire human freedom ultimately rests on this decision: Do we obey God or our idols?