

Placing the Blame

Matthew 7:13-14

Introduction: Who is responsible for the lost? When men die unsaved, who is to blame? Remember that few will be saved and many will be lost (Matt. 7:13-14). Somebody is to blame! People are going to Hell. Whose fault is it?

I. Can't Blame God.

A. God said, "I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked" (Ezek. 33:11).

B. God doesn't want anyone to be lost (1 Tim. 2:4).

C. Therefore, will all men be saved?

1. If the execution of God's will depends solely upon His own action then it will invariably come to pass.

2. However, when the execution of God's will depends in part upon man's actions then invariably it doesn't come to pass.

D. For example, it is God's will that we abstain from sexual immorality (1 Thess. 4:1-6).

1. Does God's will fail in this matter?

2. Yes, because the execution of God's will depends on man.

E. Another example, God willed the happiness of man in the garden of Eden but it depended upon man and it didn't come to pass.

F. God "would have all men to be saved" (2 Pet. 3:9).

II. Can't blame Christ.

A. "For the son of man has come to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10). Christ died just to give us a chance of salvation.

B. "This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief" (1 Tim. 1:15).

C. Christ even extended an invitation, "come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matt. 11:28).

D. However, Christ understood that the execution of His will depended on man (John 5:40-43).

E. The parable of the Wedding Feast is really about man's unwillingness to respond to His will (Matt. 22:1-5).

III. Can't blame the Holy Spirit.

A. "The Spirit... says come" (Rev. 22:17).

B. The Holy Spirit teaches God's will through scriptures (1 Cor. 2:13).

C. Yet, the Holy Spirit knows that the execution of that instruction also depends on man (John 16:8-9).

D. “Some shall depart from the faith” because man will heed others rather than listen to God (1 Tim. 4:1).

E. Resisting God’s will is the same as resisting the Holy Spirit (Acts 7:51). It is obvious that God, nor Christ, nor the Holy Spirit would want anyone to resist God’s will.

IV. Can a Christian be blamed?

A. Christians can be blamed if they do not warn others of their sinful condition (Ezek. 3:17-21; 33:2-9).

B. Poem, “Tell Them of My Way,” by Darrell Hymel.

V. Placing the blame.

A. The blame falls to each individual soul. Whether we go to Heaven or Hell is a choice we all make (Deut. 30:19).

B. Each person is ultimately responsible for himself (James 1:13-18).

Conclusion: Whose fault is it that people are going to Hell? It is the sinner’s own fault! If we find ourselves in Hell there is no one to blame but ourselves. It was a choice while we lived and apparently it was the wrong choice to ignore or resist God’s will. God doesn’t want anyone to go to Hell but that depends on you. Our assurance of salvation doesn’t depend on God keeping His promise, it depends on us keeping His will!