• More than a few people are unwilling to take Jesus at his word.

• They appeal to God’s grace over obedience.

• (Matthew 16:21-23)
  • “Far be it from you, Lord” – a Hebraism.
  • Literally – “God be merciful.”
  • Notice Jesus’ response – “Get behind me, Satan.”
Mark 16:15-16

• Just why do so many people want to argue with this clear statement of Jesus?

• If something other than salvation were at stake, would people understand it?

• (John 3:3-5).

Matthew 7:21-23

• Is sincerity enough?

• Does obedience really matter?

• (Acts 23:1).

• (Luke 6:46).
Matthew 18:21-35
- Forgiveness of others is not optional.
  - (Luke 17:3-4).
  - (Ephesians 4:31).
  - (Matthew 5:22).

John 8:24; 14:6
- There is no other way to the Father except through Jesus
  - (Acts 4:12).
  - The morality of God demands that Jesus be the only way.
Matthew 10:37-38

• Jesus must come first.
• (Colossians 1:18).
• (Matthew 6:33).
• Divided loyalties are unacceptable to God (Matthew 6:24).