

PORTRAIT
OF THE
King



ATONEMENT

“A Parable on Separating Sheep from Goats”

MATTHEW 25:31-46



**The Reference in
the Parable**

What It Represents

Sheep

Genuine Christians

Goats

Nominal Christians

The Separation

Not a Specific Judgment

1. Why did Jesus place these two kinds of animals against each other as worthy of separation?
2. Why are sheep better than goats?
3. How can I make sure I am not a goat?
4. Can I think I am a sheep and end up being a goat, and then it is too late to become a sheep?

Questions to Ask of This Parable



I. Christians are not saved by their works.

**Three Lessons
from this Parable**



Sheep

Goats

Objects of God's favor

Given eternal life

Family of God

Chosen for good works

- Also called “analogy of faith”
- Refers to unity of Scripture
- Means that Scripture does not contradict itself and Scripture interprets other Scripture

The Analogy of Scripture



“The infallible rule of interpretation of Scripture is the Scripture itself: and therefore, when there is a question about the true and full sense of any Scripture (which is not manifold, but one), it must be searched and known by other places that speak more clearly.”

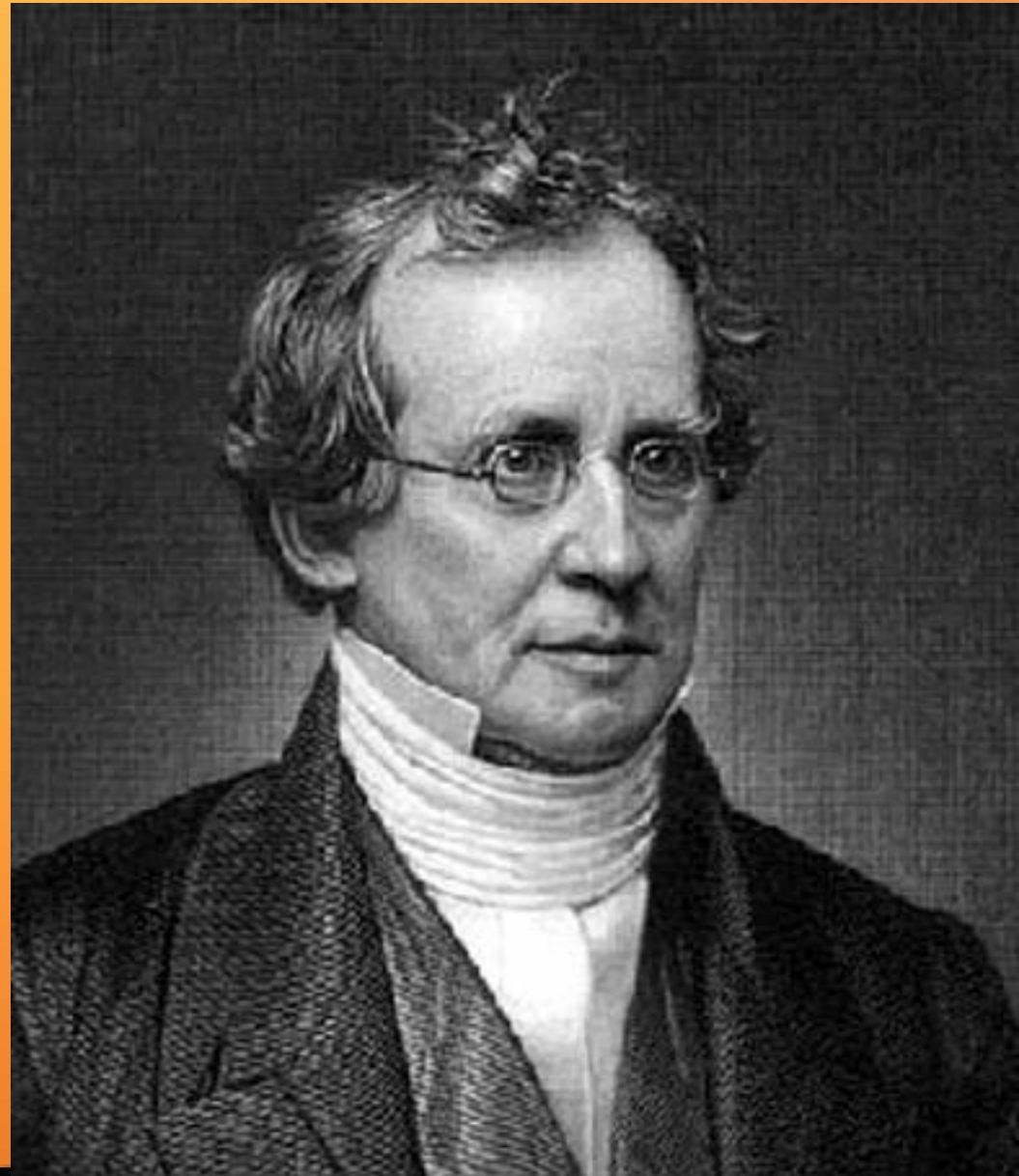
**Westminster Confession
(1647)**



“If the Scriptures be what they claim to be, the word of God, they are the work of one mind, and that mind divine.

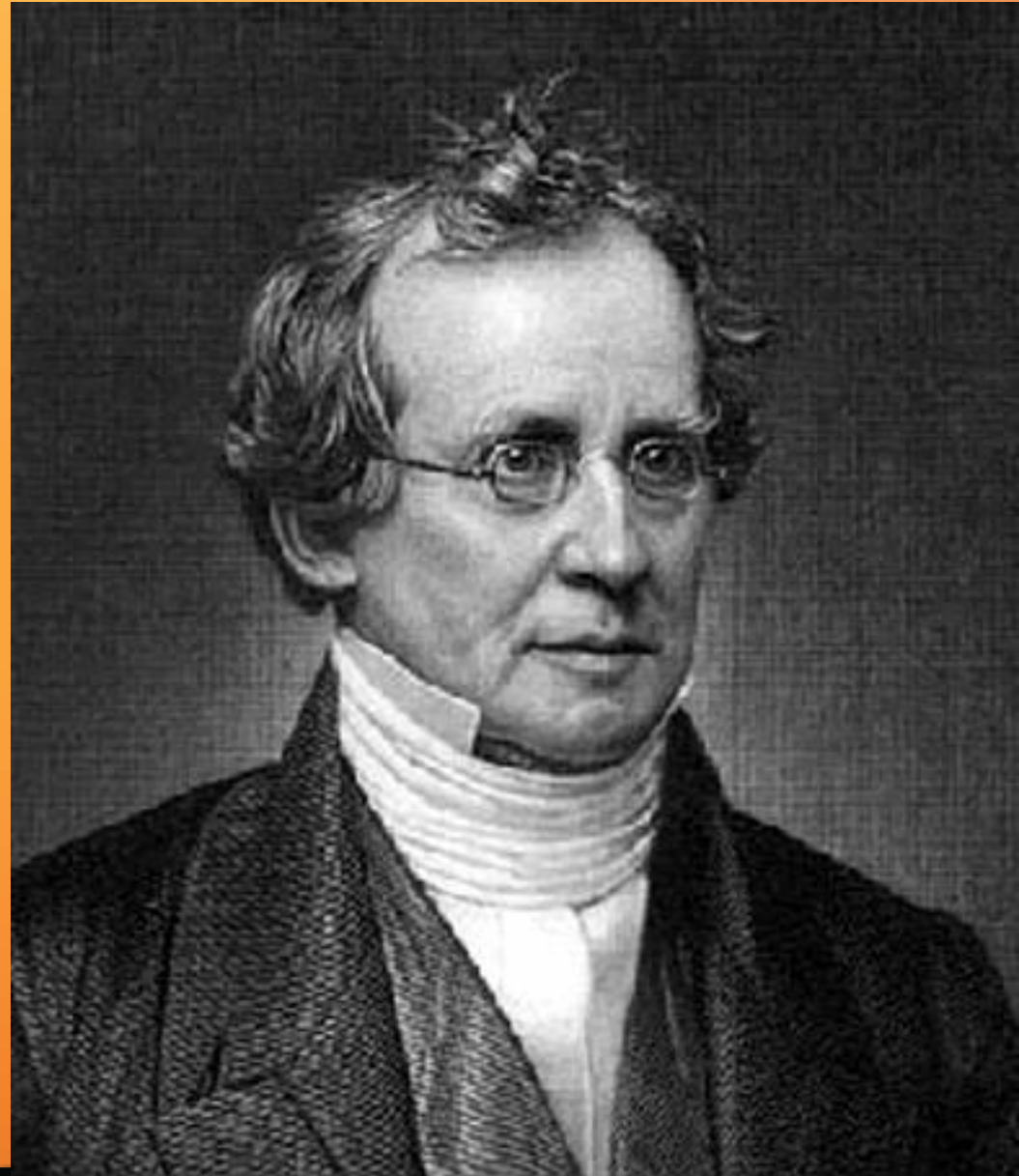
From this it follows that Scripture cannot contradict Scripture. God cannot teach in one place anything which is ...

Charles Hodge,
Systematic Theology



“... inconsistent with what He teaches in another. Hence Scripture must explain Scripture. If a passage admits of different interpretations, that only can be the true one which agrees with what the Bible teaches elsewhere on the same subject.”

Charles Hodge,
Systematic Theology



1. If Jesus is NOT saying we are saved by works, what are we saved by?
2. What was He saying about the importance of our works?

Two Questions



1. If Jesus is NOT saying we are saved by works, what are we saved by?

- We are not saved by our works (Ephesians 2:8-9).
- We are saved because of Jesus' righteousness, which is offered to us (II Corinthians 5:21).

Two Questions



2. What was He saying about the importance of our works?

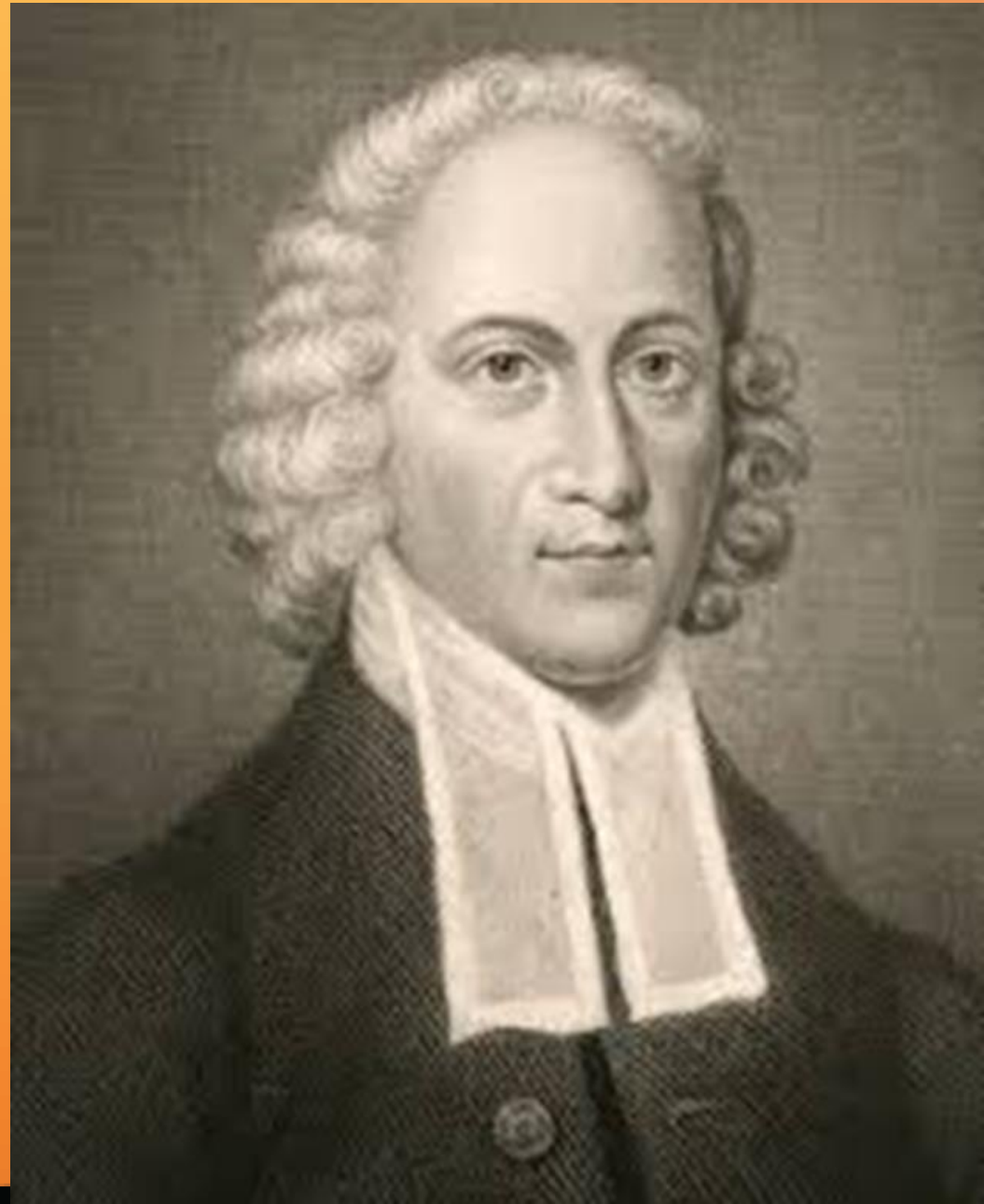
- We must do good (Galatians 6:10).
- We must love in deed and in truth (I John 3:18).
- *KEY TRUTH: our works are never the root of our salvation, but they are the fruit of our salvation.*

Two Questions



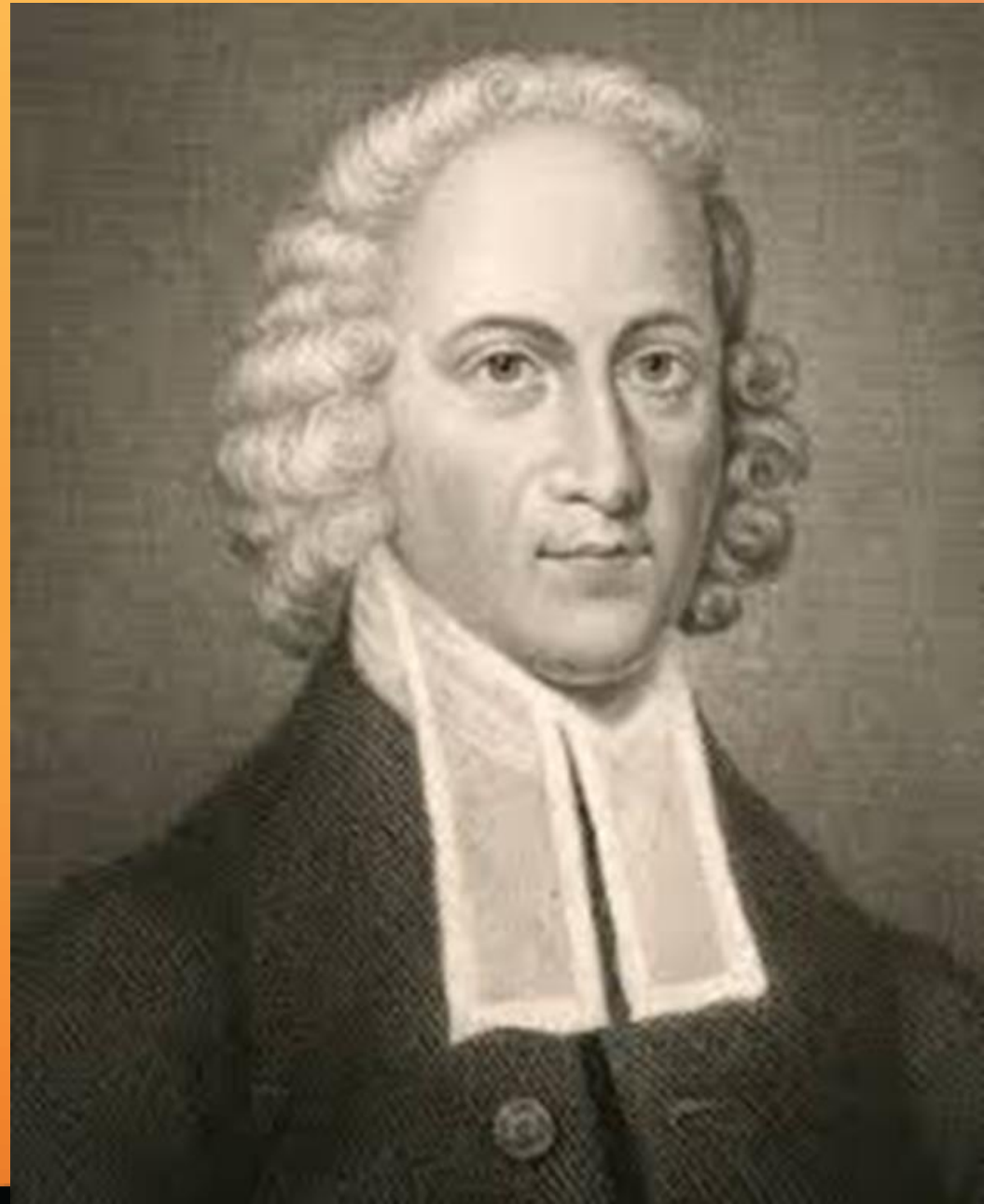
“They who are truly converted
are new men, new creatures;
new, not only within, but without;
they are sanctified throughout,
in spirit, soul and body;
old things are passed away,
all things are become new;
they have new hearts, ...

Jonathan Edwards,
Systematic Theology



“... new eyes, new ears,...
new tongues, new hands,
new feet; i.e., a new conversation
and practice;
they walk in newness of life,
and continue to do so to the end
of life.”

Jonathan Edwards,
Systematic Theology



*And then will I declare to them,
“I never knew you; depart from me,
you workers of lawlessness.”*

Matthew 7:23



21 Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.” 22 Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, “Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?” 23 Jesus answered him, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my ...

John 14:21-24



*... word, and my Father will love him,
and we will come to him and make our home with
him. ²⁴ Whoever does not love me does not keep my
words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the
Father's who sent me.*

John 14:21-24



- I. Christians are not saved by their works.
- II. Judgment will come to those who don't know Christ.

**Three Lessons
from this Parable**



Sheep

Goats

Objects of God's favor

Objects of God's wrath

Given eternal life

Given eternal death

Family of God

Enemies of God

Chosen for good works

Salvation too high a cost

- I. Christians are not saved by their works.
- II. Judgment will come to those who don't know Christ.
- III. Jesus is the Judge.

**Three Lessons
from this Parable**



*⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name,
¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

Philippians 2:9-11



*⁵ The Lord is at your right hand; he will shatter kings on
the day of his wrath.*

*⁶ He will execute judgment among the nations,
filling them with corpses; he will shatter chiefs over the
wide earth.*

*⁷ He will drink from the brook by the way;
therefore he will lift up his head.*

Psalm 110:5-7



“Today, the mills of God may grind slowly, but the day will come when the whole machinery of history will be slipped into high gear to run its fatal course to judgment ... God has borne long with men. This is the day of His patience

Donald Grey Barnhouse,
Systematic Theology



“... In our day we see the furniture of Bible prophecy being moved into place upon the stage of world history. The curtain is ready to be drawn. This shall come to pass in God’s moment. ...

Donald Grey Barnhouse,
Systematic Theology



“... Then all that is written in the Book of Revelation will come to pass, exactly as written—and it shall come speedily.”

Donald Grey Barnhouse,
Systematic Theology

