

- Rev. Grant Mangold, [www.RiversideChurchIowa.com](http://www.RiversideChurchIowa.com)

## 911 CALL FOR YOU ?

In the rubble of the Twin Towers after the Islamic terrorist attack of 9-11-2001, was found a Bible page fused to a chunk of steel. It is now in the National September 11 Memorial Museum in New York City. The page contains words from the end of Matthew 7. It's a national "911 call" for America, and for YOU.

Jesus said, "*Everyone then who hears these words of Mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell and the floods came and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand... and great was the fall of it.*" When Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at His teaching, for He was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes. - Matthew 7:24-29.

Other teachers debated endlessly with one another. But Jesus taught with His personal Divine authority: *you have heard thus and so, but "I" say to you - the TRUTH*, from God's mouth to your ears and heart. In this media age, we have a myriad of people telling us what to think and what to do. Surveys show most people today believe there is no "truth," only opinion. But, did God send us a message on 9/11/2001 ?

**9/11 PRAYERS** - Perhaps your church commemorated "9/11" this past Sunday, both the tragic loss of life and the amazing heroism of ordinary Americans. Thousands of churches used resources from the Family Research Council ([www.FRC.org](http://www.FRC.org)) which encouraged three things. First, pray for first responders and military troops and their sacrifices, for God's protection on them as they protect the rest of us;

Second, participate in the upcoming elections. FRC says, "To fail to vote is to dishonor the sacrifices of those who gave their lives on 9/11 and those who have given their lives for our freedom. Evaluate the candidates on national security and Islamic terrorism." (*Note: Islamists attack on September 11 because of numerous significant defeats that day in history*). "If candidates cannot even identify and verbalize the ideology that drives 100% of the terrorist acts, then do they deserve our vote? The least we can do is register to vote and vote our Biblical values. We should resolve we are not going to sit out this election."

Third, promote the spirit of 9/11. FRC says, "Remember the immediate aftermath of 9/11? How unified we were? The entire Congress, Republican and Democrat, standing on the steps of the Capitol, sang 'God Bless America' For a few weeks, there were no Republicans or Democrats, no Black or White, Asian or Hispanic. There were only Americans. What will it take to get us to that place again? Another disaster? Another attack? Or a determined effort on our part to mend the fences, cross the bridges, go the extra mile to find common ground. There is more that unites us than divides us. Let's renew that spirit!"

**HEAR AND DO?** The storm clouds threatening America rumble to the very core of our national soul. But people have been taught that government is our savior. False. No government and no candidate will save us. God established government because people are sinful and need structure to live by His truth. Our Founding Fathers knew that. The responsible civic duty of a Christian is to be informed, and vote. There will never be a perfect candidate. You must vote, then hold government accountable to your vote.

So many voices, just as in Jesus' day. In the preceding verses in Matthew 7 Jesus warned about false prophets, ravenous wolves in sheep's clothing. He warned about recognizing a tree by its fruits. Grapes don't come from thornbushes. He said, "*not everyone who says to Me 'Lord, Lord' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of My Father who is in heaven.*" Works follow faith.

Jesus doesn't just tell you what to do. He gives the Holy Spirit. He gives spiritual life to those who believe in Jesus as Lord and Savior. And He gives spiritual understanding, and spiritual power. God enables believers to understand His Word, and He empowers you to live it out - to hear them and do them.

**ROCK OR SAND?** That's the question for you today. Are you building your life on the rock of God's truth, or the sand of man's opinions? Is rain falling in your life? Floods rising? Winds blowing? Rock or sand, which do you think will survive? Jesus said, "*Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does them.*"

Make a 911 call to Jesus today. Make His Word the final authority in your life. Trust Him, obey Him, build your life on His Word. Only God's truth can correct the divide and unrest in your soul, and our nation.