

Do Good People Need Saving?

Introduction: Start by asking the audience...do **you** need saving? Well, the question is answered. Obviously good people need saving, for you do!!! Most people in the world are good...check that...relatively good. The Scripture says only one is absolutely good, and that is God, of course.

I) Discuss how great a problem it is for many to think they need organized religion as long as they are good. I am presenting this lesson today in response to Georgie talking with me about this last Tuesday night. He has to deal with it at work when talking to co-workers about religion. Sadly some have had all they can stand of organized religion maybe in their youth or with some aspect of it in adulthood, and much of it I would agree needs to be trashed, but as the old saying goes, you shouldn't throw out the baby with the bath water.

II) Discuss fellowship issues due to us thinking all sincere professing Christians are all right as is. Much of the interdenominational stuff going on in the world today; the acceptance of others as Christians, though very different faiths, probably revolves around this problem many have with thinking that very good religious people, claiming to be Christians, are maybe not truly Christians??? "I just can't accept that!" And sometimes they get really peeved about it. I remember in England talking on maybe a couple occasions with a young man (I was young too then of course...I had lots of hair, ha!) talking about Lutheranism. Now I cannot recall the exact things said in the long discussions, but I do recall him strongly denouncing me saying something to the effect..."So you think Martin Luther was not saved?!!! That is ridiculous!" I had not said any such thing, but simply discussed what I perceived to be the erroneous teachings of Luther.

III) Bible examples:

- * Cornelius (Acts 10:1-6 & 10:47-48 & 11:12-14)
- * Saul of Tarsus (Acts 22:3; 23:1; I Tim. 1:15-16)
- * Apollos (Acts 18:24-26)
- * 12 rebaptized (Acts 19:1-7) - Most people who say they are Christians have never been properly baptized either.

IV) Discuss the wrong mindset of earning salvation by merit. There is a difference between doing good works because you are saved (true doctrine: we are to be zealous for good works) and doing good works in order to be saved (a false doctrine).

- * Read Luke 17:10 - We are unprofitable after doing all required of us.
- * Our righteousness can be our own - Romans 10:1-3
- * Self-imposed religion among "Christians" may look impressive but in the end is futile - Colossians 2:18-23
- * Tacking on things jeopardizes salvation - Gal 5:1-2; 4:10-11;

V) Man is in need of saving as soon as he sins once. And no amount of doing good will pay the penalty due that one sin. In our civil courts we do have community service as a way of paying off debt to society for lesser crimes, but the penalty for one sin is death or separation of your soul from God. Story seen on news Sat. morning about young man sentenced for his crime of having killed a woman and her daughter in a car wreck, due to him speeding, to doing hours and hours of going around to schools and driver's ed. classes giving talks about it and showing what it can do. That is fine from a earthly court's standpoint, but that man's sin is not removed from God's book of remembrance for having done so.

Conclusion: I want to urge preaching to all, including good people. Do not be deceived into thinking that anyone professing to be a Christian and is a good person is fine with God. Maybe, maybe not.

