

Life Notes

July 4, 2010

How Good is Good Enough? Part II

Jesus taught that God was intent on not giving people what they deserved. Jesus claimed that God desires to give men and women exactly what they do not deserve.

Matthew 5:20 (NKJ)

For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

As good as you are, you aren't good enough!

According to Jesus, the guys who made a living out of being good weren't good enough for heaven, what about you?

Matthew 5:21-22 (NKJ)

²¹ "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.' ²² But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire.

Matthew 5:27-28 (NKJ)

²⁷ "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not commit adultery.' ²⁸ But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

Luke 23:39-41 (NKJ)

³⁹ Then one of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed Him, saying, "If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us." ⁴⁰ But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying, "Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation? ⁴¹ And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong."

Then he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom."

From now on I will.....

Luke 23:43 (NKJ)

⁴³ And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."

He promised people precisely what they didn't deserve!

John 14:6 (NKJ)

⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

Jesus didn't claim to be a way to God.....He claimed to be the ONLY way to God!

We don't know exactly what good is.

2. As time passes, our definition of right and wrong changes.
3. We have no clear indication from God how the scoring system for good deeds works.
4. The Bible doesn't claim to offer a way to heaven through good works.
5. Jesus assured the most religious people of His day that they weren't good enough to enter God's Kingdom, while promising criminals and prostitutes that there is a place for them.

According to this view.....forgiven people go to Heaven. Forgiveness is made possible by the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ!

Jesus was lying about himself.

2. Jesus was a crazy man that had lost his mind.
3. Jesus never claimed to be the Son of God. People just added to the story.
4. Jesus is exactly who he said He claimed to be: the Son of God who came to take away the sins of the world!

Romans 3:20 (NIV)

²⁰Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin.

Romans 7:7 (NIV)

⁷What shall we say, then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! Indeed I would not have known what sin was except through the law. For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, "Do not covet."

Romans 8:3-4 (NIV)

Christianity is the fairest possible system in a world that is irreversibly unfair.

God sees your sin as a debt you cannot pay!

Good people don't go to heaven. Forgiven people go to Heaven!

Everybody is welcome.

Everybody gets in the same way.

Everybody can meet the requirement.

John 3:16 (NKJ)

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.