

DOES MORALITY ALONE SAVE?

There are good men living today who expect to go to heaven when they die simply because they are morally good. Morality is good, and no man shall enter heaven without it, but this is not the only condition of salvation. When Jesus gave the Great Commission, He said, **“Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.” (Mk. 16:15)**. This included every man — both morally good and bad. There is nothing in the Great Commission that indicates that it is addressed to a certain class of men, but to “every creature.”

The moralist says, “I pay my debts, keep the golden rule, treat my fellow man right, give to the poor and needy, tend to my own business, have no bad habits, and try to live right. But I am not a member of the church, nor do I think I need to be one.” He looks upon the church largely as a reformatory institution for the disreputable and wicked people, not for people who are already morally good. He forgets that man has a three-fold duty — to himself, his fellow man, and to God. Since to be a moral man has to do primarily with himself and his fellow man, he fails to fulfill his duty to God.

Sometimes the excuse is, “the good man of the world is about as good as the average man of the church.” In this they are mistaken — like many members of the church are mistaken — in thinking that all that is necessary is to have one’s name on a “church roll.” In the parables of the ten virgins and the dragnets, both good and bad were in that number. Many church members are not Christians, but every Christian is a member of the church. If there is no difference between the good man of the world and the church member, we would be just as well off without the church. This would mean that we would be just as well off without civilization, Christian homes, and every good work that has come into being as

a result of Christianity. No honest man can accept this conclusion.

Furthermore, Jesus declared His disciples to be the “salt of the earth” and the “light of the world.” There must be a difference between them and the man of the world, who is neither salt nor light. The percentage of faithfulness in the church may be small, but there is yet salt and light enough to save the world. Men should not measure their lives by another man, even though the other man may claim to be a Christian. Jesus said, “Follow me.” Until we can find fault with the life of the Lord we have no excuse for refusing His invitation. Let us look to the Lord for the divine pattern. The pole that held up the serpent in the wilderness may have been ugly and crooked, but it held up the brazen serpent (**Num. 21:4-9**). The prodigal son would never have returned home had he stopped to consider the brother at home.

Some men think they are “good enough” and do not need to become members of the church. But they are not better than Cornelius. In fact, in most cases, they are much worse. Yet it took the power of God through the gospel preached by the apostle Peter to save Cornelius (**Acts 10**). Although he was a good man, one who feared God, one who prayed and gave much alms to the poor, the angel instructed him to **“send to Joppa, and fetch Simon, whose surname is Peter; who shall speak unto thee words, whereby thou shalt be saved, thou and all thy house.” (Acts 11:13-14 ASV)**.

When Jesus was talking to Nicodemus, He said, **“Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.” (Jn. 3:5)**. This includes every man, both good and bad. The Lord said *all* must be born again. To be born again is to obey the gospel, and the Lord adds all such to the church (**Acts 2:38, 47**). One must formally become a Christian and the formula is given in the Great Commission. The Lord

commands men to believe, repent and be baptized to be saved.

We recognize this fact in man’s relation to human organizations. A man may do every good deed that an Odd Fellow does, but that does not make him an Odd Fellow. A foreigner may shout for “Old Glory,” and sing the national anthem, but he is not an American citizen simply because he does those things. So a man is not a Christian simply because he cultivates certain Christian virtues. He must obey the gospel to become a Christian (**Heb. 5:8-9**).

But another says, “My heart is all right and if my heart is right with God, I am saved.” Yes, a man whose heart is right with God is a Christian, but sometimes men think their hearts are right when they aren’t. Jesus said, **“If a man love me, he will keep my words...” (Jn. 14:23)**. How can a man say his heart is right with God when he refuses to obey the gospel of Christ? But when a man obeys the gospel, he is saved from his sins, and the Lord adds him to the church (**1 Pet. 1:22; Acts 2:47**).

Paul declared that, **“all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.” (Rom. 3:23)**. No man is without sin, and no man is saved without the Saviour. A perfect life henceforth will not erase the sins of the past life. There is no power in good deeds to blot out a single sin. The moralist makes himself his own god, and his good works his saviour. He ignores his need for the Saviour Jesus Christ, and like the man lost in the forest who refuses the aid of a guide to find his way back home, the Moralist spurns the Master’s invitation to save his soul from death and to take him home to glory. He thinks he can get there alone, in his own strength and might and goodness.

J. Roy Vaughan from *Gospelpreceptor.com*

BIRTHDAY

Barbara James, 07-02.

ILL

Sunday: Millie Robertson (PM).

Wednesday: John James; Millie Robertson.

John James had chemo-therapy at Olathe Medical Center last Tuesday.

Those battling cancer: Ledgia Campbell, David Cole, Shauna Heck, Betty James, John James and Cleo Stone. Please remember these in your prayers.

HOME BOUND

Kathleen Camp is in Room 101 at the Royal Terrace Nursing Home in Olathe. Ralph Franklin is in Room D3 at the Evergreen Center. Barbara James' Aunt, Evelyn Marquardt is at Sharon Lane in Shawnee. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

OUT OF TOWN

Chris Edwards is away on business in California until June 30.

ADDRESS UPDATE

Mrs. Clara Herndon's (formerly Clara Scott) address is: 1355 K-68, Ottawa, KS 66067. Phone: 785-566-3635.

POT LUCK DINNER

Our monthly Pot Luck Dinner will be held next Sunday, July 4 following our AM worship. All are encouraged to come and enjoy the yummy food and great company!

FAMILY BIBLE STUDIES

Our **Family Bible Studies** will be held July 26-30, 2010. The theme this year is: "**Rise and Shine!**" The adult class will be taught by a different KC area Gospel preacher each night. Mark your calendar now and plan to be here!

ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, 42; Sunday PM, 31; Wednesday PM, 25.

Those To Serve

June 27, 2010

BUILDING AND COMMUNION..... Parish

MORNING WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Joel Nelson
SONG LEADER..... Trent Thrasher
OPENING PRAYER Chris Edwards
PRESIDE..... George Thomas
ASSIST..... Jared Nelson
ASSIST..... Dave Parish
CLOSING PRAYER..... Jeff Nemechek

EVENING WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER John Cody Carter
CLOSING PRAYER..... Stanley Anderson
LORD'S SUPPER..... George Thomas

WEDNESDAY 30th

SONG LEADER..... Trent Thrasher
INVITATION Ted Thrasher

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 AM
Morning Worship 10:30 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher

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