

When Being Good Enough Isn't Good Enough

(Luke 17:7-10)

- Introduction:
1. Many people go through life with the mistaken notion that they must be good enough to go to heaven.
 2. While being good is necessary if we desire heaven, just being good will not get us there.
 3. In this lesson we will discuss the true basis of our salvation and why being good enough isn't good enough.

I. Man Has A Problem With Sin

- A. The Reality Of Sin (1 Kings 8:46; Ps. 130:3; Is. 64:6, Romans 3:9,23).
- B. The Reaction To Sin (1 Samuel 15:20-21; Acts 24:25; Joshua 7).
- C. The Results Of Sin (1 John 1:5-6; Romans 6:20, 23).

II. Good Works Cannot Atonement For Sin

- A. (Isaiah 64:6) - Our righteousness is as filthy rags.
- B. (Luke 17:7-10) - After we have done all, we are still unprofitable.
- C. (Matthew 18:21-35) - We cannot pay off our indebtedness to sin.

III. The Clash Between Justice, Grace, & Mercy

- A. Definitions:
 1. Justice — Getting what we deserve.
 2. Grace — Getting what we don't deserve.
 3. Mercy — Not getting what we do deserve.
- B. God must be "just" if he is to remain "God."
- C. Amnesty isn't a just solution to the problem of sin.
- D. Enter stage left — Jesus.
 1. He justified us ("just-as-if-I'd" never sinned) Isaiah 53.
 2. He offered atonement (at-one-ment) 2 Corinthians 5:21.
- E. (Romans 3:23-26) God is both "just" and the "justifier" of sinners.

- Conclusion:
1. Because of our choice to sin, we are lost, helpless to save ourselves.
 2. If we are to be saved, help must come from a source outside ourselves.

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3. We cannot stand before God on our own merits; our only hope is in accepting the grace and mercy of God.