
❖SERMON NOTES ❖

Sunday, October 25, 2009

“ISN’T MY BEST GOOD ENOUGH?”

(Matthew 7:13-23)

We hear the questions raised often – “Doesn’t everyone go to heaven? How could a loving God allow anyone to God to hell? Does it really make any difference what you believe, just as long as you try to be a good person?” While opinions vary widely, the Bible is clear.

1. MISCONCEPTION #1: THE CHOICE IS _____.

2. MISCONCEPTION #2: _____ IS THE MAIN THING.

3. MISCONCEPTION #3: BE A _____.

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’” (Matthew 7:21-23, NIV).

“For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it” (James 2:10, NIV).

“...will go into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.” (Matthew 25:46, NASB).

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We hear the questions raised often – “Doesn’t everyone go to heaven? How could a loving God allow anyone to go to hell? Does it really make any difference what you believe, just as long as you try to be a good person?” While opinions vary widely, the Bible is clear.

1. MISCONCEPTION #1: THE CHOICE IS OBVIOUS.

“To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else, Jesus told this parable: Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’ But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’ I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted” (Luke 18:9-14, NIV).

2. MISCONCEPTION #2: SINCERITY IS THE MAIN THING.

3. MISCONCEPTION #3: BE A GOOD PERSON.

“A certain ruler asked him, ‘Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?’ ‘Why do you call me good?’ Jesus answered. “No one is good—except God alone. You know the commandments: ‘Do not commit adultery, do not murder, do not steal, do not give false testimony, honor your father and mother.’ ‘All these I have kept since I was a boy,’ he said” (Luke 18:18-21, NIV).

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast” (Ephesians 2:8-9, NIV).

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’” (Matthew 7:21-23, NIV).

“For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it” (James 2:10, NIV).

“The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it? I the LORD search the heart and examine the mind, to reward a man according to his conduct, according to what his deeds deserve” (Jeremiah 17:9-10, NIV).

“...the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels” (Matthew 25:41, NASB)

“...will go into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.” (Matthew 25:46, NASB).

“The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9, NIV).