

SINCERITY

PASTOR TIMOTHY GREEN

There was a Peanuts cartoon in which Charlie Brown was returning from a disastrous baseball game. The dejected Charlie Brown was muttering, "174 to nothing! How could we lose when we were so sincere?"

The world is full of sincere losers. People who were sincere in what they were doing, yet their sincerity was not enough to help them win.

Some people believe that sincerity is all that is needed. I've heard people say, "It doesn't matter what a person believes, as long as they are sincere."

That might sound good, but that isn't true. It matters a lot what we believe. In fact, it could determine whether or not we are saved. The key issue is not sincerity but truth.

When the Apostle Paul was persecuting Christians to death, he was very sincere. He couldn't have been more sincere. He believed that by persecuting the followers of Jesus that he was doing God a favor. He was sincere, but he was sincerely wrong.

The terrorist who flew air planes into buildings on 9-11 that killed thousands of people were very sincere, but they were sincerely wrong. Even Oscar Wilde understood this principle when he remarked, "A thing is not necessarily true because a man dies for it."

Rom 10:1-2 "Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge." KJV

Paul is referring to his fellow Jews, who had great zeal for God but not according to knowledge. They were very sincere in their beliefs, but they were sincerely wrong.

We must make sure that our zeal and our sincerity are according to knowledge. We must make sure that what we believe is in line and in harmony with the Word of God.

Rom 3:4 "...let God be true, but every man a liar;" KJV

It doesn't matter what men say, what matters is what does God say? What is revealed to us in His Word?

People that are truly sincere will believe and obey truth. Regardless of the cost.