

“THE PROBLEM WITH GOOD PEOPLE”

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You might wonder about my title. What could possibly be wrong with good people? The problem that I have encountered with some good people is that they believe that because they are “good people” that they are going to be saved.

Only God knows how many times I have invited a person to church and heard them tell me, “Pastor, I don’t go to church, but I’m a good person.” The problem with that is that I don’t recall anywhere in the Bible where it says that being a good person will get anybody into heaven.

John 3:1-3 “After dark one evening, a Jewish religious leader named Nicodemus, a Pharisee, came to speak with Jesus.” “Teacher,” he said, “we all know that God has sent you to teach us. Your miraculous signs are proof enough that God is with you.” Jesus replied, “I assure you, unless you are born again, you can never see the Kingdom of God.” NLT

Jesus didn’t tell this religious man that his religion or his goodness would get him into the Kingdom of God. What He did tell him was that he needed to be born again.

Our goodness will not get us into heaven. We have to be filled with God’s goodness. His Spirit.

Rom 9:30-32 “The Gentiles have been made right with God by faith, even though they were not seeking him. But the Jews, who tried so hard to get right with God by keeping the law, never succeeded. Why not? Because they were trying to get right with God by keeping the law and being good instead of by depending on faith.” NLT

Imagine two men. One man ignores God most of his life. He is an adulterer. He is mean. He takes advantage of people. He gets drunk and beats his wife. He abuses his kids. He is not pleasant to be around, but toward the end of his life he recognizes his need of God and repents and gives his life to Jesus.

The second man is born to Christian parents. He goes to church his whole life, reads his Bible, pays his tithe and does good deeds for others. He never commits adultery. Never drinks. He pays his debts, but he is also proud of how devout and upright he is and thinks that God will save him because he has been a good person.

The first man represents the Gentiles, who were saved by faith because they trusted in God to save them and not themselves. The second man represents the Jews, who instead of trusting in the work of Christ, trusted in their keeping of the law.

We can’t save ourselves. There is not enough good works that a person can do to earn salvation. We must be born again. We must be filled with the Spirit of God.

Don’t seek goodness, seek Godliness! When we have His Spirit, we will live good lives.