

Do Good People go to Heaven?

By Pastor Nick Bibile

Hundreds of years ago a minister who was preaching in a country village in England asked a farmer who was listening to him; “Do you think Jesus Christ died to save good people or bad people?”

The farmer replied, “Well, sir, I should say he died to save good people.” Then the minister asked the farmer, “But did he die to save bad people?” “No, sir, certainly not, sir” said the farmer. Then the minister asked the farmer, “Well, then, what will become of you and me?” Farmer replied, “Well, sir, I do not know. I am sure you are very good sir, and I try to be good as I can.” This was the common thought of religion of hundreds of years ago and if you ask the same question today, the majority answer would be the same. It is understood that good people will go to heaven and bad people will go to hell.

There is nowhere in the Bible that says Jesus Christ came to save good people, but on the other hand the Bible says, “*Christ died for the ungodly.*” (**Romans 5:6-8**) The Bible says, “*For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.*” (**Luke 19:10**) Yes, my friend, Jesus came to save sinners; sinners are lost and not in fellowship with God (**1 Timothy 1:15**). You may say, “I am not a drug addict, not a thief or a murderer but upright, honest, moral and a loving person.” Remember during the time of Jesus, murderers, prostitutes, thieves and tax collectors who were sinners came to him receive forgiveness but the upright, moral people never realized they sinned against God and thought they had no need to ask forgiveness and mercy from God *And when the scribes and Pharisees saw Him eating with the tax collectors and sinners, they said to His disciples, “How is it that He eats and drinks with tax collectors and sinners?” When Jesus heard it, He said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.”* (**Mark 2:16-17**). [Jesus said:] “*Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people’s bones and all uncleanness. So you also outwardly appear righteous to others, but within you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.*” (**Matthew 23:27-28**).

What is sin? Sin is breaking God’s law. (**1 John 3:4**) Now let us take the Ten Commandments. Have you broken any of them? You may say, I have sinned a

little but I am not that bad. Let us see in the light of God's law where you stand. Answer these questions honestly. Have you ever lied? Yes? How many lies do you have to tell to become a liar? Yes, just one lie. Now you are a liar. Have you ever stolen something in your life? Yes? How many times you have to steal to become a thief? Yes, only once. Now you are a thief. Have you ever committed adultery? You may say no. But Jesus said, *"But I say unto you, that whosoever look on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart."* (**Matthew 5:28**) Have you ever lusted after someone in your heart? Yes? Now you are an adulterer. We may be honorable among our fellow men but God looks at the heart and our motives. *"All the ways of a man are clean in his own sight, But the LORD weighs the motives"* (**Proverbs 16:2**). Now by God's standard, you are a liar, a thief, and an adulterer. Have you ever setup an idol or statue? It could be an image, a saint, a Hollywood star, a sports star, wealth, material things or anything you have love and devotion to more than to the Lord Jesus Christ. Yes? Then you are an idolater (**Ephesians 5:5-6**). Have you ever cursed the name of God, mocked at God, blasphemed God's name, murmured at God, used God's name in idle conversation or taken the name of God in vain? Yes? Then you are guilty and accountable to the Holy Majestic God in breaking the third commandment (**Exodus 20:7**).

Now my friend what is the conclusion? The Bible says there is no one who is good, not even one! From God's standard, all have sinned. *"There is none righteous, no, not one."* (**Romans 3:10**); *"There is none that does good, no, not one."* (**Romans 3:11**); By keeping God's Law no human being will be justified (be found "not guilty") in God's sight for by the Law comes the knowledge of sin. (**Romans 3:20**); The Bible says that the whole world stands guilty before God. (**Romans 3:19**); *"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we say we have no sin, we make God a liar."* (**1 John 1:10**) God's commandment has exposed your heart and has shown that you are a sinner. All these years you have been blinded by the enemy, Satan, (**2 Corinthians 4:3-4**) and you did not have any shame or guilt before God. *"The heart of man is deceitful above things and desperately wicked."* (**Jeremiah 17:9**) You have heard that God is loving, yes he is, but God also will not compromise with sin. The Lord will not leave the guilty to go unpunished (**Nahum 1:3**). If the judge in your town or city allows all the lawbreakers to go free, while telling the community, "I am a loving and a good judge, that's why I am allowing the lawbreakers to go free", then is he really a good judge? No, a good judge will punish the lawbreakers. God is the Judge of the Universe and he will punish the sinners who have broken his Law. *"God is a righteous judge, a God who expresses his wrath everyday."* (**Psalms 7:11**) Let us not forget how the justice of God was displayed during the time of the flood

(**Genesis 6:5-7**), and how God rained fire and brimstone out of heaven upon men because of sin (**Genesis 19:23- 25**), and how the earth opened her mouth to swallow the lawbreakers (**Numbers 16**), how the Lord buried Nineveh (**Nahum**) and how God slew Ananias and Sapphira (**Acts 5:1-11**). God is just and sin must be punished.

People who think that they are good and who say they have never sinned will never ask for mercy from God; they will never ask for grace. They have no shame or guilt. Hell is built for such good people as you are; you shall find no place in heaven. The blessed place of heaven is for sinners who are saved by God's grace alone and the lake of fire is for people who say they are good and have never asked pardon from God for their sins, never asked mercy from God and they are not justified by God. Hell is not a joke but a real place; the time to repent is *now*, not tomorrow. Hell is a place *"Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched."* (**Mark 9:44**) If you have trusted in a man to save you from sin, a priest, a pastor, a minister or even trusting in your church but not in Jesus Christ, then you are lost in sin. God is angry with the sinners daily. (**Psalm 7:11**) The mind of the sinner is hostile to God and will not submit to God's law. (**Romans 8:7**) If you have been relying upon any rite, or ceremony, or "sacrament" relating to water or bread and wine, any "priestly" performance, or posture, or ritual, or anything apart from the Lord Jesus Christ, I cry out to you to abandon all those soul-destroying delusions, as they will take you to hell. Believe and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ alone; He is the only mediator to God. *"For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."* (**1 Tim 2:5**) Jesus is the only way that you can be saved from the punishment of God. *"And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."* (**Acts 4:12**)

Realize you have sinned against God and you cannot go to heaven by your own works, your own merit or your own account, but on the account of Jesus Christ alone. Only by the goodness, righteousness and the holiness of Jesus Christ can we go to heaven. If you believe and trust in him alone, then he died for your sins, he took the punishment on your account and he credited his goodness and righteousness to your account. He came to wash away the filthy sins; he will take your guilt away and cast your sins into the depths of the sea and make you a new creature, a new person. You can be joyful, excited, as you are on your way to heaven. Why worry on this earth, when you are thinking of your real home – heaven. Eternal life is paid by the Lord Jesus Christ!

“For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy

Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.” (Titus 3:3-7)

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If you have been a member of a church or a Christian for many years, you know the word of God but have never brought a single convert, never cared for the souls that are perishing to hell, you had no feeling for them and never witnessed to your neighbors. You should be ashamed of yourself. Wake up from your sleep! There is a warfare going on for the souls! May God bring a sacred fire upon you to go out, witness, and evangelize for his glory!

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:19-20)

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