

THEME: Salvation

INTRO: There is an age-old belief that seems to well up inside of each person that, as far as I can tell, does not seem to be pointedly taught, nor specifically engendered in any discernible class or lesson, the following IDEA or PHILOSOPHY:

Q: Does God determine, once I get to heaven, if my good outweighs my bad?

You and I have heard people espouse this as if it were doctrinally obvious. Maybe, if you are like me, you once believed it yourself! Maybe, to some degree, you STILL believe this and don't see anything wrong with it.

Where did this idea come from? Is this the kind of doctrine we should expect to find in the Scriptures?

TEXT: John 5

LESSON:

Jesus has just done the unthinkable... religious suicide!!! He had the audacity to heal a lame man, *and* it HAPPENED to be on the sabbath! Two curious statements come from this episode.

1.) **“Sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee.”**

John 5

14 Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: **sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee.**

15 The man departed, and told the Jews that it was Jesus, which had made him whole.

16 And therefore did the Jews persecute Jesus, and sought to slay him, because he had done these things on the sabbath day.

- What's that about? It was common teaching in those days that a man born with an illness was OBVIOUSLY because the parents sinned. Or a man with a great personal handicap must have done some terrible sin.

John 9

1 And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth.

2 And his disciples asked him, saying, **Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?**

3 Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the

works of God should be made manifest in him.

4 I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.

5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.

6 When he had thus spoken, he spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and he anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay,

7 And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent.) He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing.

8 The neighbours therefore, and they which before had seen him that he was blind, said, Is not this he that sat and begged?

9 Some said, This is he: others said, He is like him: but he said, I am he.

10 Therefore said they unto him, How were thine eyes opened?

So, why did Jesus tell the lame man:

John 5

“Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee.”

Note what Jesus did NOT say: *“You’ll get lame again if you keep sinning, you know.”*

“Sin No More”. Can you think of any other time Jesus gives this command?

John 5

14 Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: **sin no more**, lest a worse thing come unto thee.

John 8

11 She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and **sin no more**.

Jesus SPECIFICALLY said, “THOU ART MADE WHOLE:” Not just cured from cripple, MADE WHOLE! Clean! Cleansed from every spot! → → Why would Jesus say ‘Sin No More?’

Luke 11

24 When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest; and finding none, he saith, I will return unto my house whence I came out.

25 And when he cometh, he findeth it swept and garnished.

26 Then goeth he, and taketh to him seven other spirits more wicked than himself; and they enter in, and dwell there: and **the last state of that man is worse than the first**.

When a Christian frustrates the grace of God by running back to the sin from which he was saved, of a truth, a WORSE THING comes.

The Bible doesn't teach sinless perfection can be achieved by man plagued with a sin nature. It teaches that we need Jesus Christ DAILY! He is our savior at SALVATION, and He is our constant savior from ourselves each and every day! He is the healer of our soul at SALVATION, and He heals each and every day. He is the REDEEMER of our soul at SALVATION, as well as the redeemer of our lives each day.

To think, *"Hey, I got this now, Jesus. Thanks for the lift. I needed you for that, but now I'm good."* is a foolish thing.

"Thanks for the healing, Jesus. Now that I can walk, I'm good on my own now."

Jesus Christ is not a "rabbits foot" to rub when things get bad. He is our DAILY BREAD! He is the wellspring of LIVING WATER.

2.) DOES THE BIBLE TEACH ABOUT GOOD OUTWEIGHING OUR BAD?

John 5

28 Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice,

29 And shall come forth; they that **have done good**, unto the **resurrection of life**; and they that **have done evil**, unto the **resurrection of damnation**.

NOTE, again, what Jesus did NOT say! *"Those who do good go to heaven, and those who did evil go to hell."*

BOTH people-groups are being called into RESURRECTION... BOTH of these people groups are called from the graves in which they are already in.

No scales are mentioned... but look at what IS mentioned. "Belief".

John 5

24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, **He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life**, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

25 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.

26 For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself;

27 And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man.

28 Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice,

29 And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of

life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

Jesus spoke of this **belief** back in **John 3**, when Nichodemus asked, “How can a man be born again? Can he enter a second time into his mothers womb?”

John 3

12 If I have told you earthly things, and ye **believe** not, how shall ye **believe**, if I tell you of heavenly things?

13 And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven.

14 And **as Moses** lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:

15 That **whosoever believeth** in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that **whosoever believeth** in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

18 **He that believeth on him is not condemned:** but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

20 For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.

21 But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.

You cannot do good things to get to heaven, because the scriptures plainly teach that:

There is none that seeketh after God.

There is none righteous, no not one.

All our righteousness is as filthy rags.

We are saved by grace, not of our selves. Lest any man should boast.

And...

Titus 3

5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

Washing of regeneration is EXACTLY what it means to be born again. We come understanding our hopeless condition, seeking the saving mercy of God, and God will take over from there. HE will regenerate and renew with the indwelling Holy Spirit! (*Whereby we are sealed unto the day of redemption.*)

The only scale that remains is the man whose love for his sin outweighs his love for his eternal soul.

Deeds are not the DECIDING factor for eternal destination, but rather can be a REVEALING factor of where someone is headed.

When a wicked man does a good deed, it is tainted by his wickedness.

When a sinful man does a good deed, it is muddied by his sinfulness.

When a man who has been made righteous does a good deed, it is the works of God wrought through that man.

You cannot earn salvation, nor the 'right' to be accepted by God...