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Can A Man Be Saved By Moral Goodness Alone?

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CAN A MAN BE SAVED BY MORAL GOODNESS ALONE?
Luke 18:17-30

By Wyatt Sawyer

Moore analyzed ancient Israel's major problem as ignorance. Moore 4:6.
Paul lamented over later Israel's error of ignorance. Romans 10:1-3.
INT: Ignorance of the Bible is possibly the greatest single cause of man's doom.
Anyone expecting to be saved any way but the Bible way due great disappointment.

I. MANY GOOD MORAL MEN ARE LOST IN SIN OF IGNORANCE TODAY.

- A. Why? What wrong have they done? Not thieves, murderers, liars etc.
- B. Was Rich Ruler a thief, murderer etc.? No. No man today better than he.
 - 1. Rich Ruler himself admitted his need of help from Christ.
 - 2. Christ did not accuse him of any overt sin, yet he did not save him.
- C. Men don't have to commit evil crimes to be lost.
 - 1. Salvation granted on basis of what one does for Christ. Matt. 12:30.
 - 2. Man isn't paid for contracting to NOT tear up a man's grocery store; he's paid to build up the trade, improve the store's condition.
 - 3. Where is salvation in the first place?
 - a. Man cut off from Christ like branch cut off from the vine; dies. John 15:5-6.

II. MORAL GOODNESS IS NOT GOD'S STANDARD OF SALVATION.

- A. Unsaved good men are the most dangerous to innocent souls.
 - 1. Good enough to have great influence on many innocent minds.
 - a. Often leading whole family, friends and young ones to their doom.
 - 2. Many of these good men are unaware of their terrible CRIME. Just ignorant!
- B. Whatever a man believes or does should come from the Bible.
 - 1. If moral goodness is the basis of salvation the Bible will say so. Rom. 10:17.
 - 2. Rich young ruler had moral goodness. He was not saved on that basis.
 - a. He refused to "come follow" Christ. Brought eternal consequences.

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III. MANY GOOD MORAL MEN LACK ONLY ONE THING.

- A. Rich Ruler was innocent of the usual moral sins of his day. Not his problem.
- B. Salvation comes only through Christ and he refused to obey Christ. John 14:6.
- C. Just one thing stands in the way sometimes.
 - 1. Some lack the moving faith it takes to save. Mark 16:15-16
 - 2. Some, like the Jewish rulers, lack the courage to obey. John 12:42.
 - 3. Some love money too much to forsake it for Christ. Matt. 6:33.
 - 4. Others can't leave their old companions to come to Christ. I Cor. 15:33.
 - 5. Some have bad habits they will not quit. Matt. 5:29.
 - 6. Many are simply misinformed or mistaken. Remedy for that. John 8:31-32.
- D. If a man obeyed ALL Christ told him he would barely be saved then, but what about those who are worse sinners than they realize? I Peter 4:18.

CONCLUSION: The Apostles asked "Then who can be saved? Note two spiritual syllogisms.

- 1. It is fatal to disbelieve Christ. Mark 16:15-16. Too much evidence if studied.
Let us say: "I disbelieve Christ."
Conclusion: I exist in a fatal state of eternal condemnation.
- 2. All the world will be judged by Christ. Matt. 25:31-40.
I am a citizen of the world.
Conclusion: Therefore I too will be judged by Christ.

NOTE: If salvation was granted to ONE man on the basis of his goodness alone then, to be just, God would have to save all men on that basis.
This, he has never promised.

The Bible teaches that all who are saved are saved by obedience to the gospel of Christ. Therefore, to be saved I must obey the gospel of Christ.

CHRIST PROMISES SALVATION TO OBEYIENT CHRISTIANS. HE KEEPS HIS PROMISES.