

THE BIBLE VIEW

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The Rich Ruler's Question

Bill Brinkworth

A rich man came to Jesus unintentionally admitting that he had committed the same mistake that most of the religious and unreligious would not dare confess. It is the same philosophy that is responsible for sending most lost people to Hell. This terrible iniquity is where over 90% of churches and religions in the world are wrong. His confession was, "... what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life" (Mat. 19:16).

This ruler (Luke 18:18) was trying to work his way to Heaven by doing all he could to earn himself a place in Heaven. Certainly, he and most religions think it natural that if you do enough good things, that the good will outweigh the bad, and God will let you into Heaven. Wrong! Unbiblical. That is what distinguishes all man-made religions from real Christianity! Other religions teach that doing something; traditions, rules, catechisms, rites, sacraments, pillars of the faith, or their religion's teachings will get them to Heaven.

Real Christianity is the only "religion" that teaches one does not have to do anything to get to Heaven, except ask

for salvation from Hell. One does not have to do anything for it, because it has already been done for them by Jesus Christ.

All have sinned. All do not only commit sin, but they were born sinners. Because of sin, no one can get higher than the coffin lid. That is the bad news.

However, there is good news. There is a Person that never sinned. His undeserved death on the cross is the only payment God will accept to cover anyone's sin. It is Jesus alone, God's only son, that is worthy enough to pay for our sins. Trying to do a good "work" to earn Heaven is rejecting Christ's finished work on the cross. This rejection says that Christ's payment was not enough.

Like the rich ruler, doing good things and living the way he thinks was not enough. This man had done "right" his whole life, yet he was looking for one more thing to do to guarantee eternal life. Works never satisfy, because they are not enough. Trusting that Jesus loves us so much that He gave his life so that we can live eternally is the only payment God will accept.

Are you 100% sure that if you were to die today, tomorrow, or a hundred years from now that you would go to Heaven? You can be sure because the "ticket" has been paid. All you have to do is accept it!

“If you think your good works and deeds will get you to Heaven, how many do you have to do to earn eternity with Jesus? Is it ten, a thousand, or a million good works that will get you there? Have you done enough?”

One will never find the amount of good works to be done in the Bible because no one can earn salvation. It is a free gift!”

“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Romans 6:23

Repent!

Bill Brinkworth

Repentance is the “... pain, regret, or affliction which a person feels on account of his past conduct ...” (Noah Webster, 1828). This regretful feeling was a vital part of John the Baptist’s ministry and is important today when one is saved from their sins.

Although a truly repentant person will change his behavior, just changing behaviors alone will not get one saved. If it were a change in lifestyle that was important, then those acts would be a type of good works, and no good works will save anyone from their sins (Ephesians 2:8-9).

John the Baptist illustrated that a broken heart over sin will produce a better life (not the other way around) when he spoke to four types of people:

- To the religious, but not righteous, he told them that if they really were convicted over their sins they would prove it by a lifestyle that would show “fruits” from their inward changes. Their changed heart would change how they lived, and others would be able to see what the changes had done in their life (Luke 3:8).
- To the common people, he told them that a giving attitude would show a changed heart (Luke 3:11). John must have known that they were covetous of the things of this world and that they were not trusting God daily for their needs.
- To the publicans, he also said that there would need to be some changes in their lives. Publicans were notoriously dishonest tax-collectors. John said for them, the change would include their being honest (Luke 3:13).
- To soldiers, he did not tell them to quit the army. He told them their change of heart would include lack of unneeded violence (perhaps John was referring to their practice of unnecessary cruelty), lying, and dissatisfaction with their salaries.

A changed, repentant heart is a proof of one’s salvation. The areas John said should change in lives over 2,000 years ago, still should change when one’s life is truly changed by salvation today.

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature:

old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” II Corinthians 5:17

“Sin and Hell are married unless repentance proclaims the divorce.” — *Spurgeon*

“Take Me to the Other Side!”

Charles Spurgeon

A slave was once sent by his master on an errand that did not suit him. He did not want to go, but he went as his master commanded him. When he came to a river, he turned back, and said, “Master, I came to a river, and I could not swim across it.”

"Well, was there not a ferry boat to take you across?"

"Yes, there was a ferry boat, but the man that manned the boat was on the other side."

"Well," said the master, "did you call to the ferry-man to come and take you across?"

No, he did not think of doing that, for he did not wish to go over, and he was glad to find an excuse. Now, it is true, sinner that you cannot save yourself, but there is One who can. There is a ferryboat, and there is a Ferryman. Trusting on Jesus' finished work on the cross is the only way to cross over into Heaven.

Cry to him! Cry to him, "Master, across this river be pleased to take me; I cannot swim it, but thou canst bear me over it. Oh! Do for me what I cannot do for myself as I am an unworthy sinner! Make me to be accepted by forgiving my sins!"

If you seek the Lord, He will be found of you.
"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." John 14:6

Two Eternal Destinations

C. H. Spurgeon

The Czar had died suddenly, and in the dead of night one of the counselors of the empire came to Princess Elizabeth and said to her, "You must come at once and take possession of the crown." She hesitated, for there were difficulties in the way, and she did not desire the position.

He then said, "Now, sit down, Princess." Then he drew her two pictures. One was the picture of herself and the Count thrown into prison, racked with tortures, and presently both brought out to die beneath the axe. "That," he said, "you can have, if you like."

The other picture was of herself with the imperial crown of all the Russias on her brow, all the princes bowing before her, and all the nations doing her homage. "That," he said, "is the other side of the decision. Tonight, your Majesty must choose which it shall be." With the two decisions vividly depicted before her mind's eye, she did not hesitate long but cast in her choice for the crown.

I lack the skill to draw such a picture of the decision you must make. You will either sink forever down in deeper and yet deeper woe, filled with remorse because you brought it all upon yourself; or else, if you decide for Christ and trust in Him, you shall enter into the bliss of those who forever and forever, without grief, enjoy felicity before the throne of God.

To my mind, there ought to be no halting as to the choice. Make the right decision! I pray God's Holy Spirit will help you to make it today. The choice of Heaven or Hell is yours alone: torment or bliss. What is your decision?

“Worry not who are, but whose you are!” — *Spurgeon*