

Wednesday Word, March 16, 2016: Is Jesus Enough to Get You to Heaven?

Here's some good news, God is holy, perfect and righteous! Here's some bad news, in and of ourselves we are not! Here's even worse news, if ever we are to get to heaven and avoid God's judgment we must be like Him, perfectly holy (1 Peter 1:16). But this is impossible! Not one of us is as righteous, perfect and holy as God. As Ecclesiastes 7:20 says, "- there is not a just man upon earth, that does good, and sins not."

So, how then can any of us get to Heaven? Are you ready for this? With man it is impossible but with God all things are possible (Matthew 19:26). The best news is that God Himself, knowing the helpless and hopeless mess we were in, came to earth and lived and died in our stead. He was perfect in our place. He lived as if he were us. Now His perfect righteousness is imputed (reckoned) to the believer. We are now perfectly holy in the eyes of God. That's the power of the Gospel.

Also, Christ Jesus went to the cross and took responsibility for our sins by offering Himself as a sacrificial substitute for us. There, at the cross, Christ poured out His blood and absorbed the wrath which our sins justly deserved. He was buried, rose again on the third day and after 40 days, He visibly and bodily ascended into Heaven there to appear in the presence of God for us. He now guarantees that we who believe on Him will be completely and entirely saved. Is this enough for you?

Now before you say, "Yeah I know that," let me ask, have you any other scheme of getting to Heaven other than resting entirely on the doing and dying of Jesus? Is He alone enough? Or, are you trying to supplement the work Christ did in His life and death? Are you attempting to add something to the gospel? Maybe it's something like your performance as a Christian? Can you and do you rest in Christ alone? Is your hope built on Christ alone? Is Jesus enough?

If you are trying to impress God with anything other than the shed blood of Jesus, give it up. Jesus must be enough! He does not need our worthless contributions to bring us to Heaven! He is our only qualification for heaven; He is enough. There's nothing you can do to save yourself.

I love the following illustration. I often use it when ministering..... Ebenezer Wooten an earnest but eccentric English evangelist of another generation once held meetings in a tent on the village green at Lidford Brook. The last service had been conducted, the crowd was leaving, and the evangelist was busy taking down the tent. A young fellow approached the preacher and rather casually asked, "Mr. Wooten, what must I do to be saved?"

"Too late!" said the evangelist, in a matter of fact way, as he glanced up at the inquirer. "You're too late, my friend, way too late!"

This startled the young man causing him to quickly lose his apparent indifference. "Oh, don't say that, Mr. Wooten! Surely it isn't too late just because the meetings are over?"

"Yes, my friend," answered the evangelist, looking the young man straight in the eye, "it's too late! You want to know what you must DO to be saved, and I tell you that you're hundreds of years too late! The work of salvation is done, completed, finished! It was finished on the cross; Jesus said so with the last breath that He drew! What more do you want?"

Then and there the truth dawned upon the young man. There was nothing for him to do! The Lord Jesus had perfected and finished the work of Salvation at the cross. That is, there was nothing for him

to do but to accept the Saviour and His redemptive work as a free gift. The person and work of Jesus was enough! Nothing needed to be added.

And that's the Gospel Truth!