

## Are Good People Lost?

### The Problem

One of the hardest things to understand sometimes is when we see people who in many ways are good people – honest, giving, work hard, faithful in marriage and to kids, but show no real interest in God, don't attend church, and in many ways don't seem to manifest what the Bible calls faith toward God or a relationship with God.

- Are they saved?
- If not, how do we explain that to them?
  - I'm as good or better than most of those people down there at that church!

### The Christian comeback

- Yes, but we've all sinned. That's why we need a Savior. Two responses to that:
  - If we've all sinned, I'm going to come out pretty good. I'm as good as most. God's not going to judge me. There's lots of good people in the world, and they don't all believe in Jesus. I'll take my chances.
  - I'll 'take Jesus' as my Savior – get my 'get out of hell free card'.

Neither of these approaches deal with the fundamental behavior problem of the unbeliever – that they basically exclude God from their life.

They're pretty much banking on their 'goodness, character, etc.'.

### Luke 18:18-19

<sup>19</sup> So Jesus said to him, "*Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God.*"

- At the surface, it looks like Jesus is saying, "There is none *perfectly* good but God." Although we're not perfect, we're still 'good'.
- That's *not* what Jesus said. He said there is none 'good'!

**Rom. 3:10-12** echoes this truth.

<sup>10</sup> As it is written: "*There is none righteous, no, not one; <sup>11</sup> There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. <sup>12</sup> They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one.*"

Verse 12 – they have all become *unprofitable*

Verse 11 – there is none who *seeks God*

This last phrase, "there is none who seeks God" strikes at the heart of what God calls "good".

### Luke 19:11- 27 Parable of the minas

<sup>12</sup> Therefore He said: "*A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and to return. <sup>13</sup> So he called ten of his servants, delivered to them ten minas (3 months wage), and said to them, 'Do business till I come.'*" <sup>14</sup> But his citizens hated him, and sent a delegation after him, saying, 'We will not have this man to reign over us.'

<sup>27</sup> But bring here those enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, and slay them before me.'

★ If God is both the source and definition of goodness, why wouldn't we want Him?!

(Larry King)

**Acts 17:31** - "*He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.*"