

MORALITY, CAN IT SAVE?

By Dr. Hoyt W. Allen, Jr.

Many believe that morally good is all that is required to go to heaven. In fact, I once believed this. I contended that since I worked, paid my bills, voted in the elections, did not steal from my neighbors or very much from my employer, attempted to keep the "Ten Commandments" that I was on my way to heaven. I was sincere, but sincerely wrong.

The above are some basics which are essentials. But are they enough? We need to see what the Bible has to say about thinking that morality saves.

The Bible gives us an example of a man name Cornelius, who was a Roman Soldier. He was a man of moral excellence. Acts 10:2 lists these:

- 1) He and all his family were devout
- 2) He was God-fearing
- 3) He gave generously to those in need
- 4) He prayed to God regularly.

This is the type of guy who everyone would like to have live next door to them. The neighbor - who you could trust to leave the house key with when on vacation. But, according to the Bible, he was lost. The angel told him that Peter would declare to him (Cornelius) in Acts 11:14 "He will bring you a message through which you and all your household will be saved." NIV If anyone was going to be saved by good morals - it would look like Cornelius would fit the bill. Rom 3:10 "As it is written: There is no one righteous, not even one..." v. 23 ... "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Isa 64:6 "All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags." NIV Morality does not save, Jesus does!

Plainly, don't get short changed. Let's be ready to meet our Maker. The Bible (in Acts) teaches that to avoid hell and gain heaven - one must:

- 1) Believe In Jesus As Savior (16:31)
- 2) Repent Of Sins (17:30)
- 3) Confess Christ Audibly (8:37)
- 4) Be Baptized In Water (2:38)
- 5) Live A Christian Life (14:22)
- 6) Be Active In the Church (2:47)

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