

LIES



The two scariest lies that we hear every day are, “You are basically a good person” and “Because God is a loving God He will not punish you”. When you start thinking, “I must be a good person, after all I do more good things than bad things and I haven’t really broken any of the Commandments” then you are really deceiving yourself. In Genesis 6:5-7 God saw the world as wicked and the inclination of their hearts was evil all the time, but it wouldn’t surprise me if many of those at that time said to themselves, “I’m a Good Person” and we know by studying the Bible and looking at history that human nature has changed little over those years and Paul confirms it in Romans 3:10-12 where he tells us, *“There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one.”*. So whether you have been able to convince yourself that you are “Good”, it will be impossible to convince God of that and He just said so. Paul goes on to point out in Romans 6:23 that “The wages of sin is death”

Death of what? An interesting question and curiously enough it isn’t just physical life. When God told Adam that if he ate the fruit, he would “Surely Die”, it wasn’t his physical death that occurred but the close relationship he had with God did die and our sin today impacts whatever relationship we have with God as well and God has been endeavoring to reinstate that fractured relationship ever since the Garden. Humans want specifics, God gave the Israelites 10 Laws which they promptly expanded into 613 laws but today we have expanded those into billions of laws and every day more are added but what about the first question.

In order for humans to understand a thing they must first “See It And Touch It”. So let’s see and touch Sin. The Bible identifies some sinful activities but to understand the pervasiveness of sin we must first acknowledge that “Sin Kills” and that what it kills is not just corporeal life. Sin is anything that hurts you, the people you live with, the people you work with, the people whose name you don’t know but interact with, even the people who you may never come in contact with. John 3:16 says that, “God so loved the world” and if God loves them you are compelled to at least not do anything to hurt them. Right!! So it amounts to any activity that frustrates or erodes you or any of the rest of the world that God loves. Sin is multi-dimensional, we know that robbing a bank is wrong but what if it’s just taking stuff that belongs to your employer, we know that shooting people with an automatic weapon is wrong but what about when you curse out that “Idiot” who just cut you off in traffic, we know that pornography is wrong but aren’t lust, greed and covetousness pretty much the same emotion and can’t they pretty much be expressed supposedly innocently. All This is phenomenally challenging and difficult.

But that’s not all folks!! Sin Kills!! Paul says in Romans 6:16, “Sin Leads to Death”. Sin kills Marriages, Relationships, Careers, Sin destroys what and who you see in the mirror, Sin kills your confidence, Sin can destroy your health, Sin can kill your finances through irresponsibility or bad habits, Sin kills your peace with those you sinned against and with God because your conscience bothers you but the end of the story is that Sin kills your relationship with you because of who you see looking back at you saying I did the wrong thing to protect myself, I lied, I was a coward, I deceived, and more than likely you will have multiple reasons for why you did those things but in the end that sin is the winner and your soul is overwhelmed.

So I'm not as good as I could be but you just said that God loved me, why would that "Loving God" want to punish me? We just saw that God wiped out the entire population of the planet save 8 people, is that the picture of a "Loving God", well yes it is because He is a God of Righteousness as well and He hates sin even the sin that we tolerate but in the same respect we love to throw this "Loving Thing" into God's lap and while it's difficult to do the "Touchy Feely" thing with God we could still love His people but it would be just the way He does. We see in the Bible where God destroys populations to make a land for the Israelites but not until Revelation do we see carnage of such magnitude. Does that make Him a less loving God? No! but it shows us His sovereignty and that if our intention is to have a relationship with Him we need to play by His rules and that means loving Him and His people just the way He does and focus on putting our name in that book of life so that we will not be in there with the beast.

What's the bottom line here? Our culture says you're a "Good Person", "Good People" go to a place of peace and tranquility. The Bible says that "Good Person" is an oxymoron and there is no such thing. Where will you put your trust? The Sovereign God has offered you a portal of escape from His wrath but Jesus described it as the "Narrow Door" and while the admission is "Free", the path isn't easy, in Luke 13, Jesus starts by admonishing the people of their sin and advocating a repentant nature, lest they perish, He then goes on to describe the narrow door and that it may not always be open. In Matthew 7:13-14 Jesus describe the portal as narrow and perhaps difficult to find and to follow. Proverbs gives us some insight as to the nature of this path, in 2:20 *"Walk in the way of good men and keep to the paths of the righteous"*, in 10:17 *"He is on the path of life who heeds instruction"*, in 15:24 *"the path of life leads upward for the wise that he may keep away from Sheol below"*

Is there any good news here? Jesus speaking in response to a woman of sin wiping His feet in Luke 7:36-50, told of the two individuals who owed money to a lender, describing one as owing something near 2 years' salary and another as owing something near 2 months' salary. He closed the story by asking who would love the lender more by his forgiving the debt. The Pharisee felt that the one who owed the most would be the most grateful and maybe you would too. What Jesus was trying to demonstrate was that He was preparing to go to the cross, where He would suffer human torture, the wrath of God, death, and a brief stay in Hell (according to Jonah 3 days was more than enough) and He did this for us so that we wouldn't have to spend eternity in that same Hell. The question is, "How big a debt do you owe to God for His sons sacrifice, how grateful are you for that act and what do you do to express that gratitude.