

Go the "Second Mile" Religion

Introduction

1. I'm sure that you have heard the expression to "go the second mile." But what does that really mean?
 - A. Merriam-Webster's dictionary says that the phrase "go the second mile" is used chiefly to describe "a deed of charity or kindness that goes beyond the demands of duty."
2. Roman soldiers could compel the Jews to carry their equipment one mile. It was the law. The Jews would go out and mark off one mile and after they had carried the goods one mile, they would tell the Roman soldier, "This is the limit. We will go no further."
 - A. For this reason, Jesus said:

Matthew 5:41 And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two.

- 1) Here are a few more verses that teach a "second mile" religion:

Matthew 5:39 But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also.

Matthew 5:40 If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have your cloak also.

3. The first mile is often viewed as "the mile of compulsion." If this is true, the second mile will be "the mile of grace and love."
4. This morning, let's study some principles of a "second mile religion."

Bible Study

1. The "first mile."

2 Timothy 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

2. The "second mile."

2 Timothy 2:2 And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, **commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.**

Hebrews 5:12-13 **For though by this time you ought to be teachers,** you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe.

Worship

1. The "first mile."

A. Some will say that it is only necessary to attend the services of our Lord on the first day of the week.

Acts 20:7 Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight.

2. The "second mile."

Matthew 6:33

Hebrews 10:25

James 4:17

Sin

1. The "first mile."

A. To confess our sin.

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

2. The "second mile."

Romans 6:1-2 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! **How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?**

Forgiveness

1. The "first mile."

Luke 17:4 And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day returns to you, saying, 'I repent,' you shall forgive him."

2. The "second mile."

Matthew 18:21-22 Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, **but up to seventy times seven.**

Love

1. The "first mile."

Matthew 5:43 "You have heard that it was said, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR and hate your enemy.'

2. The "second mile."

Matthew 5:44 But I say to you, love your enemies, **bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,**

Modest Apparel

1. The "first mile."

1 Timothy 2:9 in like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing,

2. The "second mile."

Matthew 18:6-7 "**Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin,** it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea. Woe to the world because of offenses! For offenses must come, but **woe to that man by whom the offense comes!**

Evil

1. The "first mile."

3 John 1:11 Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. He who does good is of God, but he who does evil has not seen God.

2. The "second mile."

1 Thessalonians 5:22 **Abstain from every form** (appearance - KJV) **of evil.**

Conclusion

1. God wants us to go "the second mile" in all we do. It isn't enough to just do the minimum to get by. Solomon once said:

Ecclesiastes 9:10 Whatever your hand finds to do, **do it with your might**; for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going.

2. We need to possess an attitude that says "I am determined to serve God fully and completely."

A. This world is not our home, so there is no need to straddle fences during our pilgrimage here.

- **HEAVEN** – Don't miss it for the **WORLD** – Go the "second mile."

