

# Salvation Requires More

## Introduction

1. There are many people in the religious world who have a very narrow concept of Christianity and what it takes to get to heaven.
  - A. In the denominations there are people who think God is not very strict and to just believe in His existence promises them salvation.
2. There is a similar attitude among members of the church.
  - A. Some think that just because they have been baptized and if they stay out of trouble, and take the communion every Lord's Day (or at least most of time), the Lord will save them.
  - B. These expect to be saved by doing just the "minimum" duty.
3. This morning I hope to show by the Bible that God has a plan of salvation which requires more than some believe it takes to get to heaven.

## Morally Good

1. It is not enough to be morally good.
2. It is true that Christians are to be good moral people if they hope to get to heaven, but morality alone will not save anyone.
3. We find in our Bible an example of one of the most moral and basically good young man that anyone could ever hope to find.  
**Matthew 19:16-22**
  - A. He kept the commandments of the Lord from his childhood up.
    - 1) But he failed to be saved when told by Jesus there was one other thing he needed to do.
  - B. The text says that “he went away sorrowful.”
    - 1) Salvation requires more. His morality was not enough.

## Being Religious

1. Some think that regardless of what they believe, if they are just religious they will get to heaven.
2. In Acts 17 when the apostle Paul went to Athens, Greece he found a city steeped in religious error.
  - A. The people even had an altar with the inscription, “To the unknown God”, whom they ignorantly worshiped.  
**Acts 17:22-31**
    - 1) Paul told them about the true and living God of heaven.
    - 2) He told them there was a time that God winked at ignorance – but now commands all men to repent.
3. Just being religious is not enough.
  - A. Many people throughout the world claim to worship God in one way or another.
  - B. They think it makes no difference to the Lord how, as long as we worship.
    - 1) Is this the true teaching of the Bible and is this all it takes to please the Lord?  
**John 4:23-24**
    - 2) We must worship Him in the proper Spirit (right attitude) and in Truth (according to God’s directives - not man’s).
4. The Ethiopian Eunuch traveled over a thousand miles to worship God only to find out his worship was unacceptable to the Lord.  
**Acts 8:26-39**

## Worshipping Occasionally

1. To worship God is very important, but to worship only occasionally is not enough.
2. The Bible shows that it is the practice of the faithful Christian to assemble each first day of the week (on the Lord's Day) to worship God (Acts 20:7).
  - A. In the book of Hebrews we are informed that we are not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together.  
**Hebrews 10:25-29**
  - B. We are told that it is a "willful sin" for one to forsake the assembly.
3. Jesus said to His disciples:

Matthew 6:33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

- A. This means we must put God first in our lives before everything else.
  - 1) Christians need to learn this important lesson. It is not good enough to worship occasionally. Salvation requires more!

## Sincerity and Diligence

- 1. It is so very important that we be sincere and diligent in serving the Lord. James writes:**

James 2:10-12 For whoever shall keep the whole law, **and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.** For He who said, "DO NOT COMMIT ADULTERY," also said, "DO NOT MURDER." Now if you do not commit adultery, but you do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. **So speak and so do as those who will be judged by the law of liberty.**

- 2. It will be awful to come up short in the day of judgment thinking that we are going to heaven, only to be renounced by the Lord, and lost forever!**
  - A. It is not enough to keep most of the will of God.**
  - B. Salvation requires more. He wants complete submission to Him and His will. He demands faithfulness.**

## Good Intentions

- 1. It is not enough to have good intentions and plan some day to do better.**
  - A. To plan some day to obey the gospel, or to become more sincere and more dedicated to serving the Lord.**
- 2. Many have died unprepared to meet God simply because they put His salvation off for a more convenient time.**

2 Corinthians 6:2 For He says: "IN AN ACCEPTABLE TIME I HAVE HEARD YOU, AND IN THE DAY OF SALVATION I HAVE HELPED YOU." Behold, now is the accepted time; **behold, now is the day of salvation.**

- 3. Salvation requires more than just planning to do better. Do it now.**

