
L. UNDERSTANDING THE MESSAGE OF THE BIBLE

L.5 I know how my good deeds will affect my future with God Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5

A STORY “I think my good deeds will outweigh my bad deeds “ was what one of the students on the campus told us after asking what is going to be his reason and confidence for making it to heaven. We asked him how he came to that conclusion. He commented that it just feels right. That is the way it should be. We offered to go over some verses in the Bible to clarify what was taught by Jesus and in the early church.

DIGGING INTO THE BIBLE

Ephesians 2:8-9

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.

DISCUSSION AND DISCOVERY

1. What does this verse say how we are saved?
2. What is it we are saved from?
3. What is the “this” mean that is not of ourselves?
4. How is being saved a gift of God?
5. What are the works being described here?
6. What would cause us to boast?

APPLICATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

7. How do you get this gift?
8. What do you think of when you hear that God wants to give you a gift?
9. Where do works fit into our lives?
10. What happens in your heart when you know that you can’t be saved by works?
11. How do you feel about the gift?
12. What will you do to receive this gift?

Another verse to consider is:

Titus 3:5-6

He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior,

DISCUSSION AND DISCOVERY

1. What does this verse say how we are saved?
2. What is it we are saved from?
3. What is the washing of rebirth?
4. How do you understand the generous nature of God?
5. What are the works being described here?
6. What would cause us to boast?

APPLICATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

7. How can you understand and feel his mercy?
8. What weight does your righteous deeds carry in your salvation?
9. Where do works fit into our lives?
10. What can you do to experience the washing of regeneration and the renewal of the Holy Spirit?
11. How do you feel about the gift?
12. What will you do to receive this gift?