

No one is good-except God alone

Matt 19:16-19 - 16 Now a man came up to Jesus and asked, "Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?" 17 "Why do you ask me about what is good?" Jesus replied. "There is only One who is good. If you want to enter life, obey the commandments." 18 "Which ones?" the man inquired. Jesus replied, "'Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, 19 honor your father and mother,' and 'love your neighbor as yourself.'"

1. There is only One - Jesus here responds with the exclusive statement that there is "only One who is good." He then, is explicitly stating that "no one is good but God." This truth is affirmed again and again in the scripture. In fact this is the whole reason and purpose for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Man is by nature an object of God's wrath and is in desperate need of someone outside himself to pay the penalty of death for him, otherwise he will perish in his sins apart from fellowship with God. This is the first point of the gospel message. Before there can be salvation, there must be condemnation. What are we being saved from? Before we can preach the grace and love of God, it must be established that we are condemned under the law of God and deserving of death.

Eph 2:3 - 3 All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, **we were by nature objects of wrath.**

Rom 5:12-13 - 12 Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and **in this way death came to all men, because all sinned**- NIV

Rom 3:23 - 23 for **all have sinned** and fall short of the glory of God,

Ecclesiastes 7:20 **There is not a righteous man on earth who does what is right and never sins.**

Isaiah 64:6 **All of us have become like one who is unclean,** and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, **and like the wind our sins sweep us away.** (NIV)

Rom 3:10-12 - "**There is no one righteous, not even one;** 11 there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. 12 All have turned away, they have together become worthless; **there is no one who does good, not even one.**" NIV

Prov 20:9 - **Who can say,** "I have kept my heart pure; **I am clean and without sin**"? NIV

1 Kings 8:46 - **for there is no one who does not sin** NIV

2. who is good – There is One who is good. This is the very essence of God's nature, He is Good! He has always been good, even from eternity past, so it is said, "For His lovingkindness is everlasting." God is originally good, and the source of goodness in the creation, so that when He created all things He pronounced, "And God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good." NAS (Gen 1:31) ***Everything that comes from God, His creation, His eternal plan, His laws and statutes, His sovereign rule cannot be anything but good!***

Ps 106:1 - Oh give thanks to the LORD, for **He is good**; For His lovingkindness is everlasting.

Nah 1:7 - 7 The **LORD is good**, A stronghold in the day of trouble, And He knows those who take refuge in Him. NAS

What is this goodness that God is? It has been defined as, "the benevolence, love, mercy and grace of God." Indeed there are no words to describe the meaning of God's goodness. It is certainly the opposite of evil, being that which is "good," that which promotes *happiness* and *prosperity, success and welfare*. His *gentleness* and *lovingkindness* is expressed to all His works, His *love* delights in pleasure toward all He has made, His *mercy* is expressed in *pity* and *compassion* for the needy, , and His *grace* grants His goodness even to the unworthy. He is always *giving*, as it is His nature to give and give. Indeed every good thing comes

down from the Father of lights. (Jam 1:17) God is continually kind and benevolent even to the wicked, His enemies, and those who oppose His goodness. What fullness and complete goodness is in the blessed Creator!

Ps 145:9 - 9 The **LORD is good to all**. And **His mercies are over all His works**. NAS

Ps 36:6-8 - 6 Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, your justice like the great deep. O LORD, you **preserve both man and beast**. 7 How **priceless is your unfailing love!** Both high and low among men find refuge in the shadow of your wings. 8 They feast on the abundance of your house; **you give them drink from your river of delights**.

3. If you want to enter life, obey the commandments – Here Jesus expresses God’s standard of righteousness. Who among us could say that we were blameless in all the law. Just in case we did, Jesus quickly explains that even blamelessness in regard to the law is short of God’s standard. We all fall short of God’s standard at some point.

Gal 2:16 - 16 know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because **by observing the law no one will be justified**. NIV

Matt 19:20-24 "All these I have kept," the young man said. "What do I still lack?" 21 Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth. 23 Then Jesus said to his disciples, "I tell you the truth, it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. 24 Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

1. All these I have kept - Here the young man tries to present himself as blameless in regard to the law, but Jesus quickly shows him the corrupt motivation of his heart. If we are not guilty of sins of commission, we are certainly guilty of sins of omission. WE at some point will fail to love God and our neighbor. Here the man shows that he is in violation of the first commandment, being unwilling to give up his wealth to follow Christ. He has “a god” before the True God, Jesus Christ. His allegiance is to his wealth, or should we say to himself. Here the rich are warned that their wealth is poison which can taint the soul, robbing them of eternal life.

Matt 19:25-26 When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished and asked, "**Who then can be saved?**" 26 Jesus looked at them and said, "**With man this is impossible**, but with God all things are possible." NIV

1. Who then can be saved? – Jesus obviously presents a standard that no one can reach. The disciples were astonished at his teaching, asking-“if that is the standard, who can possibly be saved?” Jesus then springs the great good news on them. With man this is impossible. It is impossible for man to be saved by human endeavor, or good works, or any other human activity. Man is bankrupt before God because he is guilty of sin. The wages of sin is death. Man is therefore under the condemnation of death, which is separation from God. If we go on doing good from today forward, we still have the penalty of death looming over us, from sins previously committed, which by God’s good justice, must be paid for. This is why we need a Savior. We need a substitute, someone to die in our place. This is what the Old Testament sacrifice looked forward to. It looked to the day when God would provide a sacrifice to atone for the sins of the world.

2. with God all things are possible – Here there is hope for the hopeless! Blessed are those who realize their unworthiness and inability to please God. When we finally call upon His name, we can be saved. God will graciously grant salvation

to all who call upon Him to save them. Dear Friend, it is possible to be saved with God! Only He can save, only His way will appease His wrath. God has provided a way for us to be saved in Christ. A willing heart of repentance He will not turn away.

John 3:36 - 36 Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him." NIV