

Don't Take the Bait: Just Be Good and Believe

Acts 10:1-6, 44-48

Introduction:

- A. Most people see themselves as good and believe they will go to heaven when they die.
- B. Satan is a deceiver of the whole world (Rev. 12:9). He is a liar and the Father of lies (Jn. 8:44). He wants nothing more than to destroy us and our relationship with God (I Pet. 5:8).
- C. Question: Is being a good person and believing enough to get someone into heaven?

Cornelius: The Morally Good Man (Acts 10:1-2)

- A. He was a respected man (Acts 10:22).
- B. He was a religious man (Acts 11:2-3).
- C. He was a generous man (Acts 10:2).

Cornelius: The Lost Man (Acts 10:3-6)

- A. Cornelius was a good man, but not good enough. There was something missing (Acts 10:33).
- B. Peter, recounting the details of what happened, said that Cornelius told him he sent for him b/c he was told Peter had a message by which he (Cornelius) would be saved (Acts 11:13-14).
- C. If Cornelius didn't need what Peter had to say, why did He send for Him?

Cornelius: The Saved Man (Acts 10:44-48)

- A. Cornelius was told to send for Peter and he would tell him what was commanded (Acts 10:33).
- B. Peter wanted to know if anyone could withhold water from these Gentile people (Acts 10:47).
- C. Peter commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ (Acts 10:48).

Key Takeaways:

- A. Being a good person is not good enough (Rom. 3:23, 6:23; Isa. 64:6).
- B. Salvation is only found in Christ Jesus (Acts 4:12; Jn. 14:6).
- C. Baptism is the doorway into Christ and the process by which we find forgiveness of our sins (Gal. 3:27; Acts 22:16; I Pet. 3:21).

Conclusion:

- A. Good people don't go to heaven, forgiven people go to heaven.
- B. We must be willing to obey the will of God. Cornelius was eager to hear the Word of God and invited his friends and family to hear Peter as well (Matt. 7:13-14, 21).
- C. Are you willing to do the will of our Father in heaven?