

SERMON OUTLINE

Dr. David A. Renwick -- January 17, 2010

Probing Questions I: Salvation – Am I In or Out?

Writings Impacting the series and this sermon

1. The Reason for God, Timothy Keller, 2008
2. God is not Great: How Religion Poisons Everything, Christopher Hitchens, 2007
3. The God Delusion, Richard Dawkins, 2006

There are plenty of important ‘impersonal’ religious questions (e.g., *Is there a God? Why is there evil? Can we trust the Bible? etc.*), but

What is the Central ‘Personal’ Question that Christian Faith Seeks to Answer?

Answer: *How do I find ‘Salvation’?*

But this leads to a second question:

‘How Do We Define Salvation’? . . .

A. Will I Get To Heaven When I die?

How Can My Sins be Forgiven?

Jesus to a thief on a cross (Luke 23:43) *“Today you will be with me in paradise”*

The Problem of the Old Testament (heaven?)

The Problem of Selfishness (Romans 6:1-14)

B. How Do I Find The ‘Good Life’?

Jesus to some of his opponents (John 10:10) *“I have come that you may have life, and have it abundantly”*

The Problem of Suffering (Job)

The Problem of the Cross (Matthew 16:24-26)

C. How Do I Know How To Live The Right Way?

Jesus to a cheating business person after he had changed his way of life (Luke 19:9) *“Today salvation has come to this house, because he too (Zacchaeus) is a son of Abraham”*

- The Ten Commandments (Exodus 20)
- The Moral Teaching and Example of Jesus
- Yet . . . The Problem of ‘salvation by Grace’ (Ephesians 2:8-9) *“You have been saved by grace through faith. This is not your own doing, it is the gift of God, not because of works lest anyone should boast.*
. . . The Problem of Faith without Works (James 2:17) *“Faith Without Works is Dead”*

D. Am I rightly related to the Eternal Creator of the Universe?

God’s Move Toward Me

God’s Loving Initiative (John 3: 3,7) *“Unless you are born again/from above”* ; Matthew 18:12; 12:12 *“how much more valuable is a human being than sheep”*

God’s Loving Self-Giving (John 3:16): *“For God loved the world so much that he gave . . . his only Son”*

My Move Toward God

Trust=Faith= pisteuo (John 3:3,5, 16) *“See/Enter the Kingdom”*

Transforming Relationship(s) (John 3:17-21) *“those who do what is true come to the light”*; (Ephesians 2:10) *“For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them”*

Result?

A Deep, Empowering, Out-Going Assurance of Salvation