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GOOD WORKS

In Matthew 19:16-22 (and Mark 10:17-22), a wealthy young Jewish man approached Jesus and asked him a question. ***“Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?”*** Jesus answered him in verse 17, ***“Why callest thou me good? There is none good, but one, that is, God...”***

For something or someone to be truly good, there can be no bad contained within it. It may be 99.9% good, but if only 0.1% is not good, then the whole is contaminated at least to some degree.

Mankind is born with the corrupted sin nature of Adam, so we cannot possibly qualify as good on our own account. Nor can we do enough good living or good acts to qualify us as good. Yet, many people believe they will go to heaven because they have lived as a good person. Scripture says we can never be good on our own account. It can only be through faith on the redemptive work of Jesus.

This rich young man missed out. Jesus told him in verse 21 to lay aside his earthly belongings and ***“Come and follow me.”*** He would not.

This illustrates how so many people believe they can deserve (earn) salvation by doing good works. They might even join a church, get baptized, and work or serve actively in the church. They may help the poor, the sick, the orphans, the elderly, or the homeless. Those are good things to do, but they are works, which will not get you to heaven.

Works cannot save your soul. Ephesians 2:8-9 says, ***“For by grace (alone) are ye saved through faith...not of works...”***

The saved ones will be rewarded in heaven for the good works they have done after salvation, but it will not be their works that gets them there. It was faith on Jesus Christ.