

Message ~ Pastor Guy Rathmell
*Back to the Basics –
Am I Going to Heaven?*

How people *think* they'll get to heaven:

-
-
-
-
-

People *think* that good people go to heaven.

John 14:6 – *Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”*

Jesus alone is the way, the truth and the life.

Even those who consider themselves to be “really good” hope that they will go to heaven, but nobody can tell you how good you have to be.

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—not by works, so that no one can boast.*

Psalms 14:1c-3 – *There is no one who does good. The LORD looks down from heaven on all mankind to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God. All have turned away, all have become corrupt; there is no one who does good, not even one.*

Romans 3:10,18 - *There is no one righteous, not even one...there is no one who does good, not even one.*

Romans 3:23 – *For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*

People *think* that keeping the 10 commandments will get them into heaven.

James 2:10 – *For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.*

Matthew 5:27-28 – *“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”*

Matthew 5:21-22 – *“You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’ But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister, will be subject to judgment.”*

“If you are looking for a God who lets good people into heaven, stay away from the New Testament. And by all means avoid the teachings of Jesus. His standards are even higher than those found in Old Testament law” (Stanley, 53).

Romans 3:10 – *Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God’s sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin.*

Matthew 5:20 – *For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.*

Philippians 3:3-11 – *For it is we who are the circumcision, we who serve God by his Spirit, who boast in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh—⁴though I myself have reasons for such confidence.*

If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless.

⁷But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. ¹⁰I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his

sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

Luke 23:39-43 – One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: “Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!”

⁴⁰But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence?

⁴¹We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.”

⁴²Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

⁴³Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

How can I know that I will go to heaven when I die?

Romans 3:23 – for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

Romans 6:23 – For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 5:8 – But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 10:9 – If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Romans 10:13 – *Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.*

How about you? Are you sure you will go to heaven when you die? You can receive God's gift of eternal life today!

This message was adapted in part from [Andy Stanley's book, Since Nobody's Perfect... How Good is Good Enough?](#) To obtain a free copy of Andy Stanley's book, or for more information on knowing for certain that you are going to heaven, email PastorBrian@sbcauburn.com.
