

2. What does the sinner's motive determine?

Please read 1 Timothy 1:8-10. This message of Paul to Timothy begins with a warning against false teachers of the Law. The context in which Timothy was functioning was affected by many so-called 'teachers of the Law;' these were men who in their own interpretation began to devote themselves to doctrines and myths of the Law that were not true. Their attitude of arrogance reflected a self-righteous mind-set that left little room for repentance. If Paul's words are relevant to us, then are we to say that we are part of all those sinners that Paul is describing? How are we to connect this passage with the descriptions above that show how the Law of God pointed and still does point the sin in our lives through the commandments?

Since the Law of God was made for all sinners and it does lead us into repentance from sin, then how are we to use it on our daily walk? And what should our attitude be towards other sinners who have yet to fully discover the message of Christ?

What's Next?

The next time we ponder the question of whether there is a hell or not, we need to first thank our God that we have been recipients of his loving grace. Today we can be assured that hell is not the place for our eternal lives because the work of Christ redeemed us from that consequence. Yet the question above should also makes us wonder how are we sharing, or are we even sharing the Good News of Christ?

God is calling all of those who call themselves 'disciples of Christ' to proclaim the message of the Good News. We first need to ask ourselves, are we living this message? Are we obeying those truths we are calling other people to follow? Or are we going through the flow of our busy lives without making any room and/or attempt to share this message? (Romans 2:21-24) How can you actively engage people for Christ this week?



Jesus Uncensored

(Part 1 of 8)

“Repent or Perish”

Ray Comfort – Sunday, June 12, 2005

This guide is intended for stimulating interaction in small setting, family circle, or your own personal appointment with

Grasp the Issue

If one were to walk on the streets of a cosmopolitan city as Chicago and ask if there is a hell, the answers to such an inquiry would vary. Some would believe that there is such a place of torment, others would not hold to that opinion, and yet others would recognize their ignorance about the topic.

Think through the following questions. What makes the issue of hell so confusing? Is it lack of information? Or is it too much distorted arguments about hell and who does and who does not go there? Or is it perhaps that human beings in general don't want to recognize the existence of this dreary place?

God's Truth in Life

1. What is it that makes the Good News become good news indeed?

Please read Luke 13: 1-5.

This passage is the continuation of a set of teachings where Christ is presenting many warnings to his listeners. These warnings are calling the people to discern the Good News that is being presented and to consider the call. Christ is not calling out attention to himself but presenting a new understanding of life that is challenging the religiosity of the people in Palestine. So when Christ says, 'unless you repent, you too will all perish,' what He is doing is destroying the self-righteousness of the people who thought that they were not as bad sinners as the Galileans. Christ is putting all sinners in the same level –all needing repentance from sin- and as a result opening the door of controversy by challenging their falsely held assumptions, and presenting the danger of this attitude. Likewise, as followers of Christ we need to consider the following questions:

Do we as Christ followers fall on the same error of thinking that we are not as bad as other sinners? Are we so self-assured of our deeds that we take for granted the continuous need to repent from anything that hinders the walk of faith? Or are we honest, as Christ was, to present the Good News with the truthfulness that emphasizes that unless people repent from sin true forgiveness won't be granted? Should we avoid these moments of sincerity the sake of not challenging our *status quo* in a social group?

Please read Romans 3: 19, 20. Here Paul is describing in detail the faithfulness of God, and how both Jews and Gentiles are 'now' guilty of that purpose. Paul clarifies to his audience that neither Jew nor Gentile is cleared from guilt on the sole basis of ethnicity. In contrast what Paul describes is that all men, Jew or Gentile, have sinned. Therefore the role of the Law of God is not to justify anyone, but instead that 'through the law we become conscious of sin.' Knowing this, how do you help a person recognize that they have sin in their life that needs the solution of Christ?

Please read Romans 7:7 and Galatians 3:24. In the same line of thought with the verses above, here Paul describes how the Law of God makes people aware of their sin and their need for a savior. In the former verse, Paul who is depicting his inner struggle with sin says that the Law made him aware of the existence of sin in his life. He recognizes the role the Law played and still does in his life, and upholds the work of 'faith' in Christ to fulfill what the law was able to do so.

So after studying the previous descriptions, what are we to make of the Law of God for our experience as a Christian community? Are we to dismiss the relevance it has for our walks of faith? Or are we to still use it in matters of ethics and faith? Are we to think that we don't need the Law because it does not add to our salvation? Or instead, are we to repeat the words of the psalmist (Psalm 19:7-8) who cherishes the Law of the Lord as perfect?