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I Don't Want to Be Better, I Want to Be Different

You can stop trying to be good enough for God

(SERIES: Loving God Without Becoming An A. S. K. : 02 of 11)
by Dr. David Foster

"Because of his kindness, you have been saved through trusting Christ. And even trusting is not of yourselves; it too is a gift from God. **Salvation is not a reward for the good we have done**, so none of us can take any credit for it." (Eph 2:8-9)

"Now we look inside, and what we see is that anyone united with the Messiah gets a fresh start, is created new. **THE OLD LIFE IS GONE; A NEW LIFE BURGEONS!** Look at it!" (2 Cor. 5:17; Msg)

The Menace Of Moralism

Moralism is spelled "do".

"...know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus" (Gal 2:16)

Moralism says do good to get in.

"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." (Mat 5:20)

Moralism is about lists of things you don't do.

3 Myths About God

God can be appeased.

"It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." (Heb 10:31)

God can be obligated.

"For he says to Moses, 'I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.' It does not, therefore, depend on man's desire or effort, but on God's mercy." (Rom 9:15-16)

God can be ignored.

"For we must all stand before Christ to be judged and have our lives laid bare--before him. Each of us will receive whatever he deserves for the good or bad things he has done in his earthly body." (2 Cor 5:10 TLB)

When I say I'm a Christian . . .

I'm not advancing a religious system.

I am not attempting to label things to make them safe for consumption.

"Test everything. Hold on to the good." (1 Th 5:21, NIV)

I'm affirming that all true truth is God's truth.

" . . . Let God **be true**, and every man a liar. . . ." (Rom 3:4 NIV)

" . . . I have been sent to bring faith to those God has chosen and to teach them to know God's truth-- the kind of truth that changes lives--so that they can have eternal life, which God promised them before the world began--**AND HE CANNOT LIE.**" (Titus 1:1-2 TLB)

The Majesty Of Christianity

" . . . he said, '**It is finished.**' and bowed his head and dismissed his spirit. (John 19:30)

In Christianity God does the pursuing.

"For the Son of Man came to *seek and to save what was lost.*" (Luke 19:10)

In Christianity God does the dying.

" . . . 'he was wounded and bruised for our sins. He was beaten that we might have peace; he was lashed--and we were healed! We--every one of us--have strayed away like sheep! We, who left God's paths to follow our own. Yet God laid on him the guilt and sins of every one of us!'" (Isa 53:5ff)

In Christianity God does the resurrecting.

"Jesus told her, 'I am the one who raises the dead and gives them life again. Anyone who believes in me, even though he dies like anyone else, shall live again. He is given eternal life for believing in me and shall never perish. Do you believe this, Martha?'" (John 11:25-26 TLB)

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