

Fellowship Group Questions for *Bogus Religion*

Read Matt 19:16-22

1. Based on this passage and the message Sunday, what is the core difference between Christianity and every other form of religion?
 - Every other form of religion says you have to *do* something to get to God or heaven or Nirvana. Everything depends on you and what you can accomplish to earn your own salvation. Christianity is the only “religion” that says you can’t *do anything* to earn salvation. God extends grace, which cannot be earned and is not merited, to sinners in order to save them. Religion says “do;” Christ says “done.”
2. Why do you think that message of grace is bad news to some people? Why was this the message Saul of Tarsus hated?
 - Many people want to be able to do because then they are carrying themselves. They get spiritual pride in the idea that they are earning their own way and that they look better than those around them. People who don’t recognize their own sinfulness find this idea unnecessary and “foolishness.”
3. Where was the Rich Young Ruler’s focus? What do all of his questions revolve around?
 - He was completely focused on himself. “What must I do?” “How do I gain eternal life?” “All these things I have done...” Works based religion takes all the focus off of God and puts it on man. Like Peter walking on water, eyes that focus on anything but Jesus are doomed to drown.
4. If Jesus says “done” in regards to salvation, why does He tell the young ruler to do something? Why does Jesus tell him to sell all he has?
 - Jesus was pointing out the desire problem this man had. Salvation comes by faith which is an acceptance of everything that God is for us in Jesus Christ. This man was not willing to put enough faith in Jesus to sell all he had. He loved his comfort and his safety net of wealth over God. Jesus was exposing the Young Ruler’s satisfaction problem.
5. Read Galatians 2:22. If people can earn their own way to God, what does that say about Christ and his death on the cross?
 - If we can earn our own salvation, then Christ died in vain. If our works are enough, we don’t need Jesus. He died for nothing.
6. Read Romans 8:3-4 (NKJV). Why could the law not save?
 - The law could not save because we are “weak through the flesh.” Through the flesh, each of us inherits sin passed down since Adam. We have the disease of sin from the womb and so we could never adhere to the law. We were doomed from the start. The law is a mirror to show us that we are sinners but it cannot fix the problem.
7. What does it mean that Jesus was sent “on account of sin?”
 - When we sin, we incur the punishment of those sins. God keeps account of each of our sins and we are each responsible to settle that account one day. However, the punishment of that sin is eternal. God is infinitely good and so sin is infinitely bad when compared to Him. Jesus as God and perfect man was the only one who had no punishment in His account and so he could take the punishment in our accounts on Himself. He paid what we never could.

8. Before you were saved, what things did you try to “do” to get to heaven or to get God?
9. What struck you personally from Sunday’s message?

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