

THE BIBLE DOESN'T SAY THAT

WEEK 8

“ These questions are designed to extend the impact of the weekend message. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family, and/or with a group or Bible class. ”

This series concludes with the most popular misunderstanding of what the Bible says. It is commonly believed with regard to salvation that “being good is good enough.” Apparently the most popular defense before the bar of God will be the evidence of one’s basic goodness. But the Bible never says that.

1 **“BE GOOD” is *bad theology*.** Why does “be good” theology make us feel good? And why do so many think this is the basic message of the Bible?

2 While no one believes they can attain moral perfection, most are quite certain that God will grade on the curve. Jesus had no place for “be good” theology. **Read Luke 18:9-14.** What are some of the radical implications of this shocking parable?

3 **MY GOODNESS is *my greatest barrier to God*.** Religion makes the bar for goodness someone else. The feel-good comes from comparing yourself to someone who is not as good. **Read Luke 18:18-19 and Romans 3:10.** What are some of the religious ways we measure ourselves against others, and what is the danger of doing so?

4 Jesus exposed the one thing that religious and irreligious people have in common—they don’t really think they need God. **Read Luke 18:24-25.** Why is it so hard for some to give up “be good” as the way to God, and what does it take to realize that way is “no good”?

5 The disciples, having heard “be good” theology all their lives, were shocked by Jesus’ words. **Read Luke 18:26-27.** In what way is salvation impossible for men, and in what way is it a miracle of God?

6 **GOOD NEWS is *the gift of God’s goodness through Christ*.** We are not saved by being good, but by believing in Jesus, and in God’s promise to transfer His goodness to us. **Read Ephesians 2:8-9, Titus 3:5-7, and 2 Corinthians 5:21.** How can God declare us righteous if admitting we are not is necessary for salvation?

7 The Gospel is good news, not good advice. How does this make the message of Christianity different from every other religion?

ACTION STEP *The gospel is too good not to be true. Being good is not good enough. Jesus is good enough, and that is very good news to everyone who knows they will never be good enough. But that doesn’t mean we shouldn’t devote ourselves to doing good things (see Titus 3:8). So do good, but remember that your hope is built on His goodness not yours.*