



Teaching Notes: Ray Davis

May 12, 2013

Doubts & Answers

desert breeze community church

“Isn’t Christianity, just another Religion?”

Luke 18:9-14

Christ’s severest warnings were not given to atheists but to very religious people. Jesus’ teaching consistently attracted the irreligious while offending the Bible-believing, religious people of his day.

Our Universal Problem: Desperate for Approval (Resume – A validating performance record). v9 righteous, v14 justified, exalted

What Doesn’t Work: Religion (keeping all the rules) or Irreligion (making up my own rules) vv11-12, 14 “everyone who exalts himself will be humbled”

What Does Work: God’s Complete Approval! V13 “merciful” = to make reconciliation (Heb2:17) Rom1:17, 5:1; Gal2:16; 2Cor5:21

RELIGION

I obey-therefore I’m accepted

Motive: Fear/Insecurity

I obey to get things from God

Bad Circumstances: Angry at God and/or Myself

Criticized: blow-up or Melt-down

Pray/Bible: heats up in Suffering (petition)

Self-image: swaggering or sniveling

Fruit: Judgmental, self-Righteous, excessive Anxiety, anger, sadness

GOSPEL

I’m accepted-therefore I obey

Motive: Grateful Joy

I obey to enjoy/display God’s Glory

Bad Circumstances: not punishment but training & His Fatherly love is enough

Criticized: struggle but open b/c ID in Christ not self

Pray/Bible: Fellowship w/ God (praise & adoration)

Self-image: Humble (sinful) & Confident (loved)

Fruit: Love, Joy, Peace ...enjoying the many good things of life w/o being controlled by them



Growing

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- 1) Why do you think Christ's severest warnings were not given to atheists but to very religious people? There is a profound and fundamental difference between the way other religions tell us to seek salvation and the way described in the Gospel of Jesus. Explain.

- 2) Read Luke 18:9-14. What stands out to you? To who & why did Jesus tell the parable (v9)? Who are the two men described in the story and what were their reputations in bible times?

- 3) How did the Pharisee pray compared to the tax collector and what do you think motivated each one? What does it mean that one man was justified and the other wasn't and what principle did Jesus stress (v14)?

- 4) From the sermon notes: What is our universal problem (v9 righteous, v14 justified, exalted)? What doesn't work (vv11-12, 14 "everyone who exalts himself will be humbled")? What does work (v13 "merciful" = to make reconciliation [Heb2:17] Rom1:17, 5:1; Gal2:16; 2Cor5:21)?

- 5) Review the Religion vs. Gospel chart from the sermon notes. Which one(s) are strengths & which one(s) growth areas for you? What are some things you need to do to become less like the Pharisee (performance leads to approval) & more like the tax collector (approval leads to performance)?
Pray