

Common Statements

- **“Well, he wasn’t a Christian, but he sure was a good guy, and I think surely people like that will go to heaven, too.”**
- **“She was a really kind and good person, I know that God is pleased with her.”**
- **“I feel that as long as I’m good to others, God will not punish me.”**

Do all “good” people go
to heaven?

Acts 10

- An angel appears to Cornelius and tells him to call for Peter.
- Peter is told by the Spirit to go meet Cornelius.
- Peter preaches Jesus to Cornelius and his household.
- Holy Spirit falls on the Gentiles.
- Cornelius and his household are baptized.

Cornelius was a good man

- 10:1-4
- 10:7, 8. Showed his faith by obeying.
- 10:22
- 10:24, 25
- 10:33. Willing to listen to God.
- Undoubtedly, Cornelius was a good man.
- As good as he was, he was not a saved man.
 - 10:6; 11:13, 14

What does it mean to be good?

- Doing actions that are morally “good” and being characteristically good are two different things.
 - Matthew 27:3-5; Matthew 26:24
- God alone is good and determines what is good.
 - Mark 10:17-18
- Goodness is determined by God’s standard, not by being better than others.
 - Matthew 5:48

What are we really like?

- **People are sinners.**
 - Romans 3:23, 9-12; 5:10
- **People are dead in sin.**
 - Ephesians 2:1-3
 - Romans 6:23
- **People, by themselves, are without hope.**
 - Ephesians 2:12
 - James 1:14, 15

Good works do not erase sin

- **Sin can only be remitted by blood.**
 - Hebrews 9:22
 - Hebrews 10:19
- **Good works do not earn cleansing.**
 - Ephesians 2:8, 9
- **Remission of sin by the blood through baptism.**
 - Romans 6:1-6

The Gospel, grace, & obedience

- **No one can reach heaven outside of Christ.**
 - John 14:6
- **No one can be pleasing to Christ unless they obey His commands.**
 - John 14:15
- **No one can be saved unless they obey the Gospel.**
 - Romans 1:16

A question

- Can someone be defined as good if he chooses to not obey the One who is good?

Conclusion

- We're not getting to heaven based on our goodness.
- Thankfully, salvation does not depend on my goodness, but on my obedience to His grace.
- Today, why don't you submit to the One who is good?