

Coach House Church BEACONS

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IF GOD LOVES ALL OF US WHY DOESN'T HE LET US ALL GO TO HEAVEN?

We all know people that are what we would call “good people”. They’re respectable and don’t hurt anyone, they seemingly don’t do anything wrong. So why doesn’t God say they’ve done enough and can go to heaven?

The bible tells us that God loves everyone and wants all to come to him. 2 Peter 3:9 says

“The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.”

He wants to save all of us, but He won’t force us. He wants us to have the choice to love Him.

In heaven we will be serving God and spending time with Him eternally. But God has a problem. He can’t be with sin. But what is Sin? Sin is a thought a word or an action against what God wants. God designed the universe and has the right to direct us wherever He wants to. So sinning is just acting in a way that He wouldn’t want.

God is so pure that he can’t be around sin and He’s so righteous that He can’t stand to see it happen. Now each of us know within ourselves that no matter how “good” we seem, we have all said, done and thought things that aren’t right. Each and every one of us. We have each chosen what we know is wrong. Romans 3:10 says “There is no one righteous, not even one”. Inside ourselves, we know this to be true. We have even failed based on our own standards. Whatever moral standard we hold to, we all at some point fail to meet it.

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This has been a problem since Adam and Eve first sinned in the garden of Eden at the beginning of the world. After many generations, God then chose the Jews to be His people and made a promise with them. He said that He would protect them as long as they followed Him. If they went astray there were methods of being forgiven. However, the Israelites couldn’t even manage

a system of rules with a way of being forgiven and time and time again they failed. They chose to worship other gods and go their own way. Humans found that there was no way they could meet God's standards.

So God sent His son to make a promise with Himself rather than make a promise with us. The good news is that heaven is now accessible for all of us because Jesus took all of the punishment that we deserved. He made us pure enough to be in the presence of God, the holy and righteous one, in heaven forever. But God won't force us to be in His presence. He has made the way clear for us and made it as easily available as possible. But He won't make anybody choose to go His way. That wouldn't be free choice and that's not what God wants. We can choose at any point in our lives to go our own way or submit to God's way. He opens His arms but we have to make the choice to step into a life with Him.

Once we make that decision, we are washed clean. We will still mess up but we know Jesus has made us right with God and has paid the price we should have paid. We know our future is secure with Him. He also gives us His Holy Spirit to help us make the right decisions and make us more like Christ.

It's important that we know that not everyone will go to heaven. Jesus talked a lot about the consequences of our sin. We need to understand that God is holy and righteous and can't stand sin. It's heart breaking for us to think that anyone would miss out on an eternity with God, but that should make us more motivated to go and tell others about what Jesus has done for all of us. It should make us even more grateful that God has made the way for us and made us right with God.

It should also make us excited about changing to become more like Christ. This is an amazing possibility that opens up for us because of the Holy Spirit. We should get excited when we see ourselves becoming more like Christ, having attributes of Jesus developing in our lives. We don't have to do the bad things that have tied us down for so long.

However, we shouldn't be downhearted when we mess up because we know that Jesus has paid the complete price for all of our sin. We should be aiming to improve and be the best we can be but understand that this is a journey.

If we all went to heaven now, as we are, we would not be ready for it. We aren't good enough or unselfish enough or humble enough. We would end up making it the same as earth. We need to want and allow God to make us perfect starting on the earth and becoming complete when we die, and spread the good news that this is available for everyone. You don't need to be good enough, none of us are, but we can all be saved by Christ by simply turning to Him.



BEKAH BAKER



Coach House Church

leadership@coachhousechurch.org // 0161 432 5604

the coach house church, 222 wellington road north, stockport sk4 2qn