

PEOPLE GOD CAN'T SAVE

I. God can't save those that don't want to go to heaven.

- A. God has provided salvation for all men (Titus 2:11-14).
- B. However, He does not force us to accept.
 - 1. Matthew 7:13-14.
 - 2. Hebrews 11:6.
- C. Paul had a great desire to go to heaven (Philippians 1:23).
- D. He knew what awaited the faithful (2 Corinthians 5:1-2).
- E. The thing is, no one is going to stumble into heaven by accident.
- F. God cannot save a person against his/her will.
 - 1. Each of us are free moral agents.
 - 2. We choose Who or what we serve.
 - 3. Jesus said, "Ye cannot serve God and mammon."
 - 4. We decide which one we are going to serve.
- G. If anyone is going to go to heaven, it is because that person desires it and pursues it above all other things (Matthew 6:33).

II. God can't save a person who will not turn from his sins.

- A. Sin is the great separator (Isaiah 59:1-2).
- B. Because judgment awaits all men, God has commanded us to repent (Acts 17:30-31).
 - 1. Repentance is so important that Jesus stated it twice in one speech (Luke 13:3 & 5).
 - 2. Five of the seven churches of Asia were told to repent.
 - 3. Peter told those at Pentecost to repent (Acts 2:38).
- C. Repentance means to have a change of life that was brought about by a change of heart (Acts 3:19).
- D. It is a turning to God from sin (1 Thessalonians 1:9).
 - 1. This is motivated by godly sorrow (2 Corinthians 7:10).
 - 2. It results in a holy life (1 Peter 1:13-16).
- E. God can and will save a person from sin, but He will never save a person in sin.
- F. This would be completely inconsistent with His nature and will to save anyone who will not get out of sin (Habakkuk 1:13).
- G. Thus, God cannot save the person who holds on to his sin.

III. God can't save those that refuse to answer His call.

- A. Proverbs 1:24-25.
- B. Many of the Israelites refused to answer the call of God sent to them through the prophets.
- C. Today, many follow in their footsteps.
- D. Jesus issued the call this way (Matthew 11:28).
 - 1. The call is issued today through the gospel (2 Thessalonians 2:14).
 - 2. Those who answer that call become the children of God (1 Peter 2:9).
- E. God promises to save the obedient, but another fate awaits those that refuse to obey (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9).

- F. Those that answer the call obediently will be saved (Hebrews 5:9).
- G. If an employer called you to come to work and you refused, would you expect to get paid?
- H. It would be against the nature of God to save those who refuse to answer His call.

IV. God cannot save those who will not forgive others of their sins.

- A. Matthew 6:14-15.
- B. This is an incredibly plain statement.
 - 1. Sadly, many Christians fail to heed it.
 - 2. They hold grudges in their hearts and refuse to make amends or to accept the amends that are being made.
- C. God plainly states that He will not save those who refuse forgiveness to others.
- D. We must take Him at His word.

V. God cannot save the lukewarm, indifferent, apathetic unfaithful member of the Lord's church.

- A. Revelation 3:16 - these words should grab our attention.
- B. Verse 19 is the remedy for this problem.
- C. To the Ephesian church, Jesus said they had left their first love (Revelation 2:4).
- D. The same remedy was given to them as was to the Laodiceans (Revelation 2:5).
- E. Faithfulness til death is required of all Christians.
 - 1. Revelation 2:10.
 - 2. Without being faithful, they, and we as well, would not receive the crown of life.
- F. We must have faith in order to please God (Hebrews 11:6) and that comes through studying God's word (Romans 10:17).
- G. The fact is that without faith there is failure.
- H. Those who are listening to and consistently obeying God's word, will be saved.
- I. For God to save an unfaithful child of His would be against His nature and will.
- J. God cannot and will not save the unfaithful.

From an article by Dave Leonard