

Good People

*So much good in the
worst of us.*

It seems that the popular conception of our society is that all people are really good. This seems to be especially true at funeral time. Perhaps this is true. At least it is so if we look at it as follows.

Some Good People

I. Some are good but only For Satan.

- A. They are a menace to society. Criminals. To them laws were made to be broken. These are the rebellious souls. (I Sam. 15:23, Ro. 13:1-2)
- B. These are also those who are selfish and self-centered. (II Tim. 3:1-5). Indifferent to the want and need of their neighbors. Unaffected by the joy or the grief of another. "Don't tell me your troubles, I've got enough of my own."
- C. Included here, we might also mention the thief and the tramp who have forgotten, or do not care that God intends for man to work. Such expect to get by without making any contribution to society. They are parasites. They think the world owes them a living. (I Thess. 4:11, II Thes. 3:10-11)

II. Some are good - For Nothing. These do no harm in a positive way, but what good do they do?

- A. They do no good for the church. If the church had to depend on them, the bats would take over the buildings. (Ro. 14:19, Ep. 4:16, I Th. 5:11). (Ro. 12:11). They do not bless the community. (I Pe. 3:9) They do not aid the sick or the suffering. (The preachers call means much, but how much more the willing Christian hands) (Illus. Lois & arm)
- B. They need to learn that life has positive duties as well as negative ones, and that in order to be good, one must do good. (Mt. 7:12, 22:37-39, Phil. 2:4)
- C. The do-nothing servant is the best servant Satan has. (Mt. 12:30)
- D. What you have done for others will come up in the judgment. (Mt. 25:31ff)

*IF FRUITLESS
Lk. 8:11, 14
Mt. 3:8
Jn. 15:1-2*

III. Some are good- To Be Seen of men. They will toil long and hard if recognition is quick. The great are the small. (Mt. 23:11-12) (The nameless samaritan, widow, soldier with a sponge)

- A. The Pharisee was good to be seen of men. Jesus often rebuked them for their proud show and outward display of religion. (Mt. 6:1, 6, 16, 23:5, 27-28)
- B. The empty, hollow, ringing sham and pretense of religion brings down the disapprobation and censure of the world, dishonors Christ, hampers the work of his disciples and alienates souls that might have been saved. Good to be seen. It is not

(Soldier on dress parade)

Good Man

Lk. 16:9-14

Pride

Pe. 8:15
Re. 16:18

admiration but revulsion they create. Christs
rel. is whole soul religion. (Ro. 6:17, Jas. 4:8-10)
IV. Some are good - In Own Eyes. But our vision is
corrupted and distorted by sin and inordinate self-
love. God is able to rip aside these clokes of self
deception. (Jn. 9:41) Such makes a man his own God
and human reason his religious standard. (Jer. 10:23)
(cf. I Cor. 1:19ff, 3:18-20)

V. Some are good - Morally. There are large numbers
of humanity who fall into this category.

A. Lead good moral life; a good neighbor; good
citizen; an asset to the community in many ways.

- 1) Can morality open the gates of heaven?
- 2) Is any man that good? Is there any life
upon which the stain of sin has never come?
(Ro. 3:10-12, 23, Rev. 21:27)
- 3) Men need to be saved. (Tit. 3:5)

B. Like the men in the parable of Jesus. (Mt. 22:
2-3) "They would not come."

- 1) There is only one source of life. (Jn. 14:6)
- 2) Come to the source? (Jn. 5:40) (Ac. 4:12)

(Mt. 25:10-12) C. Morally good but they have not obeyed the gos-
pel (Ro. 1:16) and are not in the church wherein
we are reconciled (Ep. 2:16) and in which we are
saved. (Ep. 5:23, Ac. 2:47)

- 1) The church is entered by baptism (Ac. 2:41,
I Co. 12:13)
- 2) They who are not baptizd are therefore not
saved.

Some Have good
intentions

Good People Condemned

Thus we take some notice of some of that great
multitude of good people whom God will condemn, not
because of their goodness or lack of it, but for
other stated reasons.

I. People with good intentions. The parable of the
two sons. (Mt. 21:28-32)

A. The condemned boy was a good boy in many res-
pects. He said that he would work in the vineyard.
Condemned because he "said and did not." Good
intentions cannot suffice. (Mt. 23:3)

II. The good but Fruitless.

- A. Seed is planted for a purpose. (Lk. 8:11, 14)
 - B. Repentance must bear. (Mt. 3:8)
 - C. Fruitless branches cut off. (Jn. 15:1-2)
- Regardless of excellence in "being good" God
demands fruit.

III. The good but Slothful are condemned. "Thou
wicked and slothful servant" (Mt. 25:26). The decree
(Mt. 25:30)

- A. A good man. Did not spend, lose nor steal it.
- B. Just did nothing with it. Honest but destined
for "buter darkness."

IV. There are ever those who are good but filled
with Pride. (Lk. 18:9-14)

A. A good man! Prayed, fasted, tithed and refraine
frp, grosser evils.

B. Not justified. Why? Pride. "Trusted in self and despised others." (Pr. 8:13, 16:18)

C. Good + Proud = Condemned.

V. There are some nice folks who are considered to be very good - virgins, but Unprepared (Mt. 25:10-12) The cry comes at midnight. (Song 361 Maj. Hymnal).

Finally there are the ones that are good for the cause of Christ.

-A. Good to obey His commands (He. 5:8-9)

-B. Good to assemble with the Lord (Ac. 20:7, He. 10:25)

-C. Good to work steadily. (Phil. 2:12, Jas. 2:18)

-D. Good to give. (I Cor. 16:1-2, II Cor. 8:5)

-E. Good examples of Christian living. (I Cor. 11:1)

F. Salutary influence. (Mt. 5:13, 13:33, ~~Re. 14:13~~)

Well nite plans #602 & 604.

How do you class? Are you good, not by the standard of man but by the standard of Christ? Are you good in the service of Satan or in the Army of the Lord of Hosts? Are you good in your own goodness, proudly displaying your shame in the filthy rags of self-righteousness, or are you clothed upon with the garment of the sinless Christ? (Ga. 3:27)

GOOD PEOPLE - Condemned

For Satan

Intentions

For Nothing

Fruitless

To Be Seen

Sloth

In Own Eyes

Pride

Morally

Unprepared

For Christ

