THE RELIGION OF MORALITY

Sermon by Donald Townsley

INTRODUCTION

1. The most popular religion of our day is the RELIGION OF MORALITY.

2. You may ask, "What is the RELIGION OF MORALITY?"

3. The "RELIGION OF MORALITY" is the idea that a man may be saved by being sincere and by living a "GOOD MORAL LIFE" apart from Christ, without obedience to the Law of Christ, and without being a member of the Lord's church.

4. This RELIGION OF MORALITY is founded on one simple idea -- IF YOU LIVE A GOOD MORAL LIFE, GOD WILL SAVE YOU.

5. Here is HOW the theory of this religion goes:

   (1) Be a good moral man, practice good citizenship, treat your family well, be a good neighbor, and you will be SAVED.

6. This religion is widespread.

   (1) That it's widespread is indicated by the vast number of people who make no formal pretense at RELIGION.

   (2) These people argue that their morality is all they need.

7. The important thing is all of this is -- WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH about this RELIGION OF MORALITY?

8. The Bible teaches that the RELIGION OF MORALITY is NOT the RELIGION OF THE BIBLE; God has NOT authorized the RELIGION OF MORALITY.

I. THE CASE OF CORNELIUS REFUTES THE RELIGION OF MORALITY


2. Few Christians could boast higher moral principles than these.

3. Cornelius was a believer in God, devout, prayerful, and benevolent -- YET HE WAS LOST!

4. An angel appeared to this good moral man and instructed him to send for PETER, and "HE SHALL TELL THEE WHAT THOU OUGHEST TO DO" -- Acts 10:6

   (1) He would speak words whereby he and his house could be saved -- Acts 11:14

   (2) This was because the GOSPEL is the POWER of God unto salvation -- Rom. 1:16; Mk. 16:15 - 16; I Cor. 15: 1 - 4; I Pet. 1: 22

5. When Peter came to the house of Cornelius, the Holy Spirit "fell on them which heard the word" -- Acts 10:44

6. This was to convince the Jews that Gentiles were subjects of the gospel -- Acts 10: 45- 46

7. After this, Peter commanded them to be baptized in the name of Christ -- Acts 10: 47 - 48

8. Surely, if moral goodness alone could save, Cornelius could have been saved that way.

9. Cornelius' conversion is the strongest possible proof that MORAL LIVING IS NOT ENOUGH.

II. THE RELIGION OF MORALITY INVOLVES SALVATION WITHOUT CHRIST

1. If a person could be saved by a GOOD MORAL LIFE, it would involve SALVATION WITHOUT A SAVIOR.

3. The RELIGION OF MORALITY would involve Salvation without Christ

4. WITHOUT CHRIST there is:
   (1) No forgiveness of sins -- Eph. 1:7
   (2) No Hope -- I Tim. 1:1
   (3) No Salvation -- II Tim. 2:10
   (4) No Way to God -- John 14:6
   (5) No Spiritual Blessings -- Eph. 1:3
   (6) No Church -- Acts 20:28

5. The RELIGION OF MORALITY is a religion without Christ!

III. THE RELIGION OF MORALITY WOULD BE SALVATION WITHOUT THE BLOOD OF CHRIST

1. God’s eternal purpose demanded that the blood of His own Son has to be shed, for without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sins -- Heb. 10:22; I Pet. 1:18 - 20; Rev. 13:8; Acts 2:23

2. When Christ died, He gave His blood to atone for the SINS of men of the ages -- Heb. 9:15; Matt. 26:28; Heb. 10:12; Acts 20:28

3. His blood is sufficient in RECONCILIATION -- Eph. 2:13 - 16; Rom. 5:10

4. We are justified by His blood -- Rom. 5:9

5. We are redeemed by His blood -- Eph. 1:7

6. If morality is enough, then Christ died in VAIN -- Gal. 2:21

IV. THE RELIGION OF MORALITY WOULD BE SALVATION WITHOUT FAITH IN CHRIST

1. The Moral Jew, who denies the Deity of Christ, would be saved.

2. The Moral Athiest, who says there is no God, would be saved -- Psa. 14:1

3. Men who do not believe in Jesus Christ will die in their sins -- John 8:24, 21

4. This faith is not just the mental assent of mind -- it is faith that obeys -- James 2:24; Mk. 16:15 - 16; John 3:16

V. THE RELIGION OF MORALITY WOULD BE SALVATION WITH OBEDIENCE

1. If morality is enough, then one can be saved without OBEDIENCE TO THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST.

2. The New Testament teaches that one must obey the gospel to be saved -- II Thess. 1:7 - 9; Mk. 16:15 - 16; Rom. 6:17 - 18; I Cor. 15:1 - 2

3. One cannot be saved without being born again of water and of the Spirit -- John 3:3 - 5

4. One cannot be saved without being in Christ -- II Tim. 2:10

   (1) One gets into Christ by being baptized into Christ -- Gal. 3:26 - 27; Rom. 6:3 - 4; Matt. 28:19

5. One must obey the will of God to enter the Kingdom of heaven -- Matt. 7:21
CONCLUSION

1. Moral living is righteous living.

2. One must live righteously to go to heaven after he becomes a Christian -- Tit. 2: 11 - 12

3. Moral living fits the child of God for heaven.

4. But, moral living will never make one a child of God.

5. Morality alone cannot save one.