

love and mercy for us when He died for us on the Cross. ***Jesus does all the work! The only thing we can do is receive this gift, by placing our faith in what Jesus has done for us!***

So if what Jesus did saves you, then what good does it do you to focus on yourself instead of him? Jesus says that if you want to be saved, if you want to 'get right', then look to what he did. What good is it to focus on what you think you still have to do? He's already done it. So if you want to follow Jesus now, don't think about what you need to do to get right, just think about what he already did.

Maybe your wondering, ***'What about the way I live and my daily struggles? What about my broken relationships and my addictions?'*** Great question! Paul addressed this issue in Colossians 2:6-7: 'Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.' Paul means that just as we started out by faith in the gospel of Jesus, so continue to walk with Him 'by faith.' This means the Gospel, Christ's work, never becomes old, but is the 'day-to-day' reality of the Christian. As we daily bring ourselves to God, with our sins, the Cross of Jesus should get bigger and bigger, for we come to realize that the love of Jesus at the Cross is our only hope. As a result, instead of staying away from God because of our fear, we come to him because of His grace and mercy. It is the Gospel of Jesus that enables us to 'keep coming back' so that 'He can get us right!' Hope to see you at church soon!



That He Might Walk Among us!

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***That He Might Walk
Among us!***

***□I've gotta get
myself right
before I go to
church!□***



Really????

How long are we talking about?



While walking the streets of the Hill and talking with our neighbors, the overwhelming issue I hear is

‘what is keeping people from Church.’ For sure, people in the Hill are spiritual. Ask your neighbors about God and they will have something to say—and they might all have something different to say! But if you ask them about going to church, you’ll probably hear, “I gotta get myself right before I go to church.” Why? What are they waiting for? Deep down, people in the Hill believe that they can’t come to God unless they “get right.” They think you’ve got to be presentable if God is going to bless you or even accept you. So what is the root system of ‘I will get right and then I will get back to church?’ For many, this statement carries with it a belief that if God won’t bless me until I get my act together, then why should anybody love me? When we believe that people have to meet a standard before they can be loved, we live with fear, guilt, envy, and insecurity. It doesn’t take long to see the problems with trying to live like this. But the problems are even bigger than they seem.

One, it does not take a human being very long to realize that none of us can be good enough to be presentable to God. God is Holy and demands those He is in relationship with to be holy as He is holy. This creates a huge problem for all of us. This is enough to keep us all out of church!

Two, if you’ve got to meet a standard to be good enough, then which standard? Who’s to say what is “getting right” or what is being presentable? People tend to either make up their own lists of “you’ve got to do this” or “you’ve got to do that” that aren’t really God’s commands, or they just pick a couple of God’s laws and make those the only ones that matter. However, the catch is that God doesn’t judge us according to our standards or our limited obedience to just a few of His laws. If we want God to accept us because we are good enough, then we have to do everything in the Bible perfectly. That’s over 600 commandments! But the problem isn’t that there are so many, it’s that they are all so hard. Jesus said that if we’re angry with our neighbor that’s breaking God’s law. God’s commands are for our hearts, not just our actions. And that’s a big problem: God requires perfection. If we are going to live up to a standard in order to be right with God, it’s got to be God’s standard, and that’s impossible. That’s why we make up our own standards or act like some of God’s commands aren’t really

important.

Finally, the biggest problem with the “get right” attitude is that it causes us to focus on ourselves, not on Christ, to focus on our problems, not on Jesus’ solution. The Gospel is that we can’t ‘get ourselves right’, but Jesus can—and when He died for us on the cross, He did. The Gospel is that we can’t fix ourselves but that Jesus can—and when we walk with him he does. Jesus says that if you’re with him, then you are already right; He makes you ‘right’. Jesus says you don’t have to wait to ‘get right’ before you can come to him, because he already came to you.

So what is the Gospel of Jesus? Simply stated: *God is holy and He is just, and we are not. And at the end of our lives, we are going to stand before Him, and we’ll be judged. And we’ll be judged either on the basis of our ‘getting right’ – or lack of it – or on One who was and is ‘right’.* The good news of the Gospel is that Jesus lived a perfect and right life, of perfect obedience to God, not for His own well being but for His people. He has done for you and me what we couldn’t do for ourselves. But not only has He lived that perfect life, He offered Himself as a perfect sacrifice to pay the penalty for our ‘not being right.’ The Gospel show us that our relationship with God is not based upon what we do; but is based on God’s