

“WHAT ABOUT THIS MAN?”

By Keith Greer

“Most assuredly, I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish. This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, ‘Follow Me.’ Then Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following, who also had leaned on His breast at the supper, and said, ‘Lord, who is the one who betrays You?’ Peter, seeing him, said to Jesus, ‘But Lord, what about this man?’” {John 21:18-21} Peter was concerned about John, but he needed to be concerned about himself. Some people still have this same problem; they ask:

What about the heathen? *“Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.” {Acts 17:30,31}* People are always asking preachers if God will condemn the poor souls who’ve never even heard about Christ. We tend to forget that each of us has a duty to seek after God, and if we do, God will provide the means to find Him. {Matthew 7:6-8

What about my parents? *“He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.” {Matthew 10:37}* Each individual—including our parents—is a free moral agent who makes his/her own choices. What mom or dad did or did not do is not the question I should be asking. It’s “What am I going to do?” God will judge all people fairly according to the choices they made during their lifetimes. {2 Corinthians 5:10}

What about good moral men? *“There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian Regiment, a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always.” {Acts 10:1}* If just being a good moral person is enough, why did God send Peter to preach to Cornelius? God brought the two men together to bring about the salvation of Cornelius’ soul. Christians must be morally pure, but morality, in and of itself, does not assure eternal salvation.

What about those who are affiliated with other religions? *“But He answered and said, ‘Every plant which My heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone. They are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch.’” {Matthew 15:13,14}* Good motives, good works, and claims of love for the Lord will not eliminate the fact that a person is not following His commands. Please read *Leviticus 10:1-3* and *2 Samuel 6*.

What about unfaithful church members? *“I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. Because you say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’ --and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked.” {Revelation 3:15-17}* Probably the first thing we need to do is define the word faithful. It simply means “obedient to His will.” Nowhere does God’s word indicate that Christians reach a point where we no longer need to obey.

Each of us needs to be very concerned about whether we are living according to God's standards. Do you remember how Jesus answered Peter? *"Jesus said, what is that to you? Follow me."* That sounds to me like very good advice for all to follow! ***