

The Heart Matters-Part 4
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Dr. Alan Goracke

Jeremiah 17:9-The human heart is the most deceitful of all things, and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is?

Religious moralism is an emphasis on proper moral behavior to the exclusion of genuine faith.

Religious Moralist- One who is concerned about regulating the morals of others.

Matthew 5:21-23-"You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.' But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire. NKJV

John 10:10-The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. NIV

Romans 8:28-30- And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

A "good heart" is not created by laws.

Ezekiel 36:26-28- I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. You will live in the land I gave your forefathers; you will be my people, and I will be your God. NIV

A “good heart” based on morality alone, won’t get you where you want to go.

Luke 23:39-43-One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!" But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."

A “good heart” based on religious practices is impossible to accomplish.

Matthew 5:20- For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

What does a “good heart” look like?

Honesty

Psalms 51:10-12- Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

Trust

Proverbs- 3:5-6- Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight

“Honesty means God knows me. Trust means that I know God”

Freedom

“Honesty leads to trust and trust leads to freedom”

Proverbs 29:25- Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is kept safe. NIV

Galatians 5:1-It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. NIV