



Sermon Study: February 1st

Subtle Lie: God Helps Those Who Help Themselves

- 1) Did you grow up in a church environment where works-based theology seemed prevalent, that you had to earn your way to Heaven or earn God's favor and grace? What was that like?

- 2) Read aloud **Ephesians 2:8-9**. How does understanding that Christianity is the only world religion that does NOT subscribe to earning your way into a better afterlife give you confidence you are actually following the one, true God?

- 3) Read aloud **Galatians 2:21**. Which pitfall of works-based self-righteousness are you more prone to slide into: arrogance or burnout?

- 4) Have you ever had an "If/then" theology that caused you to be disappointed in God?
("If I do some good things for God, then He should do good things for me." Or "If I work hard to please God, then He will work hard to please me.")
How were you able to be rescued from that rut?

- 5) Read aloud **Romans 5:6-8**. You probably intellectually know that God loves you, but do you believe and trust that He also likes you? Why or why not?

- 6) Talk about a time in your life where you were so busy trying to get God to like you, that you were unable to enjoy the truth that He already loves you.

- 7) Read aloud **Matthew 16:24**. What areas of your life do you tend to try to control?
What is one thing in your life, just one, that you can turn over to God this week?