

>> SINGING: GOOD NEWS TODAY. NO MATTER WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING IN THE WORLD, THERE IS ALWAYS GOOD NEWS TODAY.

>> WELCOME TO GOOD NEWS TODAY, THE PROGRAM WHERE YOU WILL ALWAYS FIND GOOD NEWS, NO MATTER WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING IN THE WORLD.

>> I'M MARK TESKE, YOUR HOST FOR GOOD NEWS TODAY. I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR JOINING US. WE'VE GOT A GREAT PROGRAM. HERE'S WHAT'S COMING UP. WE'RE GOING TO BEGIN WITH OUR DEVOTIONAL TIME, AND THAT CONSISTS OF OUR SCRIPTURE READING, BEAUTIFUL SINGING, AND A BRIEF STUDY OF OUR SCRIPTURE. TODAY WE'LL BE LOOKING AT DEUTERONOMY 30:15-20, A PASSAGE WHERE GOD GIVES ISRAEL A CHOICE AS TO THEIR FUTURE AS A NATION. SO GET OUT YOUR BIBLES, TURN TO DEUTERONOMY 30. I'LL MEET YOU THERE IN JUST A MOMENT. FOLLOWING OUR DEVOTIONAL TIME, WE HEAD TO THE WORKSHOP, WHERE TROY SPRADLIN WILL BE REPAIRING OUR UNDERSTANDING ABOUT ZEAL WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE. JIM DEARMAN IS GOING TO JOIN US WITH SOME SOUND WORDS AS HE ASKS THE QUESTION, WILL GOD BLESS YOUR HOME? JOE GUY JOINS US FOR THE PASTIME PORCH, AND HE HAS ANOTHER TRUTH FROM THE TIMELESS TEXT AS HE TALKS ABOUT FAITH VERSUS WORKS. CHAD DOLLAHITE JOINS US FOR JUST A MINUTE AS HE ASKS, COME TO CHURCH OR COME TO JESUS? IN OUR FINAL SEGMENT, WE HAVE A FINAL QUESTION FOR ANTHONY DISMUKE AND TROY SPRADLIN: IS THERE A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN EVERLASTING AND ETERNAL IN MATTHEW 25:46? AS YOU CAN SEE, WE'RE LOOKING AT SEVERAL COMPARISONS IN THIS WEEK'S EPISODE, AND I HOPE YOU HAVE YOUR BIBLE AND YOU'LL STICK AROUND AS WE STUDY GOD'S WORD TOGETHER. WELL, I HOPE YOU HAVE YOUR BIBLE OPENED UP TO DEUTERONOMY CHAPTER 30, WHERE WE READ BEGINNING AT VERSE 15, SEE, I HAVE SET BEFORE YOU TODAY LIFE AND GOOD, DEATH AND EVIL, IN THAT I COMMAND YOU TODAY TO LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD, TO WALK IN HIS WAYS, AND TO KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS, HIS STATUTES, AND HIS JUDGMENTS, THAT YOU MAY LIVE AND MULTIPLY; AND THE LORD YOUR GOD WILL BLESS YOU IN THE LAND WHICH YOU ARE TO POSSESS. BUT IF YOUR HEART TURNS AWAY SO THAT YOU DO NOT HEAR, AND ARE DRAWN AWAY, AND WORSHIP OTHER GODS AND SERVE THEM, I ANNOUNCE TO YOU TODAY THAT YOU SHALL SURELY PERISH; YOU SHALL NOT PROLONG YOUR DAYS IN THE LAND WHICH YOU CROSS OVER THE JORDAN TO GO IN AND POSSESS. I CALL HEAVEN AND EARTH AS WITNESSES TODAY AGAINST YOU, THAT I HAVE SET BEFORE YOU LIFE AND DEATH, BLESSING AND CURSING; THEREFORE CHOOSE LIFE, THAT BOTH YOU AND YOUR DESCENDANTS MAY LIVE; THAT YOU MAY LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD, THAT YOU MAY OBEY HIS VOICE, THAT YOU MAY CLING TO HIM, FOR HE IS YOUR LIFE AND THE LENGTH OF YOUR DAYS; AND THAT YOU MAY DWELL IN THE LAND WHICH THE LORD SWORE TO YOUR FATHERS, TO ABRAHAM, ISAAC, AND JACOB, TO GIVE THEM.

>> (SINGING)

>> THE BOOK OF DEUTERONOMY CHRONICLES THE LAST MONTH OF ISRAEL'S TIME IN THE WILDERNESS WANDERINGS AFTER THE EXODUS OUT OF EGYPT. THEY'VE BEEN THERE IN THE WILDERNESS FOR 40 YEARS, AND ALL OF THOSE ADULTS THAT CAME OUT OF EGYPT HAVE PASSED AWAY EXCEPT FOR MOSES, JOSHUA, AND CALEB. AND THIS NEW GENERATION OF ISRAELITES WERE GETTING THE INFORMATION FROM GOD FIRSTHAND, THE LAW AND THE COVENANT THAT THEY WOULD HEAR THEMSELVES. HERE IN OUR TEXT, WE'RE GETTING AN EXPLANATION FOR THE BLESSINGS OF OBEDIENCE AND THE CURSES THAT THEY WOULD RECEIVE IF THEY FAILED TO LIVE UP TO THEIR SIDE OF THE COVENANT, THE AGREEMENT. THIS IS SOME OF THE LAST INSTRUCTION GIVEN BY MOSES. IN FACT, IN THE VERY NEXT CHAPTER, JOSHUA IS INTRODUCED AS THE NEW LEADER IN THE FOLLOWING VERSES. SO IN OUR TEXT FOR TODAY, THERE'S

AN EXPECTATION THERE THAT WE'RE GOING TO LOVE GOD AND OBEY HIM. THE COMMANDS AND THE STATUTES, THE THOU SHALTS AND THOU SHALT NOTS OF THE LAW, THOSE WERE THINGS THAT THEY NEEDED TO OBEY. BUT GOD HAD ALSO MADE PROVISION FOR THEM WHEN THEY MADE MISTAKES. THERE WERE SACRIFICES THEY COULD PERFORM. BUT THEY WERE ALSO TO FOLLOW IN HIS JUDGMENTS, APPLYING THOSE LAWS FAIRLY AND WITHOUT PARTIALITY. THAT WAS SOMETHING THAT THE PROPHETS WOULD WARN THE LEADERS ABOUT REPEATEDLY, AND THEY'D STILL FAIL. BUT IF THEY DID WHAT THEY WERE TOLD, THEY WOULD RECEIVE THE BLESSINGS OF PROSPERITY IN THE LAND. BUT THIS PROMISE OF REST WAS CONDITIONAL. GOD'S PART OF THE PROMISE, GIVING THE PEOPLE THE LAND THAT THEY WERE GOING TO CONQUER, THAT WAS COMPLETED. JOSHUA 21:43-45 TELLS US THAT VERY FACT. BUT, BUT HE WARNS THEM, IF YOU TURN AWAY FROM GOD AND FALL INTO IDOLATRY, YOU'RE GOING TO BE PUNISHED. YOU NEED TO HEAD IN A TOTALLY DIFFERENT DIRECTION. IT JUST DOESN'T MAKE SENSE. IF A PERSON TURNS THEIR BACK ON GOD AND CONTINUES IN THAT OPPOSITE DIRECTION, SHOULD GOD GIVE THAT PERSON ALL OF HIS BLESSINGS ANYWAYS? NO. YOU SEE, THE PEOPLE WERE STUBBORN. GOD SENT PROPHETS WITH MESSAGES. THEY WERE OFTEN IGNORED. HE SENT OTHER NATIONS TO PUNISH THEM, BUT THEY WOULD GO BACK TO THEIR IDOLATROUS WAYS. HE WOULD SEND FAMINES, BUT NOTHING CHANGED. IN AMOS CHAPTER 4, GOD GIVES A LIST OF FIVE THINGS THAT HE DID TO TRY TO WAKE UP THE PEOPLE. EACH TIME HAD THE SAME CONCLUSION: YET YOU HAVE NOT RETURNED TO ME. AND THEN IN VERSE 12 OF AMOS 4, THEREFORE, THUS I WILL DO TO YOU, O ISRAEL; BECAUSE I WILL DO THIS TO YOU, PREPARE TO MEET YOUR GOD, O ISRAEL. THAT WASN'T GOING TO BE A PLEASANT MEETING FOR THE PEOPLE. YOU SEE, HE TOLD THE PEOPLE THAT THE DECISION WAS THEIRS. HE ENCOURAGED THEM TO CHOOSE LIFE, CHOOSE TO BE FAITHFUL TO HIM AND THE BLESSINGS THAT COME ALONG WITH IT. IN THE NEXT CHAPTER, GOD TOLD MOSES, THESE PEOPLE ARE GOING TO FAIL. WASN'T GOD'S FAULT. HE WARNED THEM. HE ALLOWS PEOPLE TO MAKE BAD DECISIONS, BUT HE ALSO ALLOWS US TO LIVE WITH THE CONSEQUENCES OF THOSE BAD DECISIONS. 2ND PETER 3:9, THE LORD IS NOT SLACK CONCERNING HIS PROMISES AS SOME COUNT SLACKNESS, BUT IS LONGSUFFERING TOWARD US, HE'S PATIENT TO US, NOT WILLING THAT ANY SHOULD PERISH, BUT THAT ALL SHOULD COME TO REPENTANCE. THAT'S WHAT HE WANTS FOR ALL OF US. GOD WANTS TO GIVE US GOOD THINGS, BUT OFTENTIMES OUR OWN DISOBEDIENCE GETS IN THE WAY. YOU SEE, HE'S NOT GOING TO FORCE US. TO OBEY HIM, TO BE SUBMISSIVE TO HIM IS A WILLFUL DECISION THAT WE MAKE. AND OUR DECISION CAN GO EITHER WAY. WE CAN DECIDE TO FOLLOW HIM AND LIVE BY HIS COMMANDS, AND THEN WE HAVE GOD'S PROMISE OF REST. FOR THEM, IT WAS THE PROMISED LAND; FOR US, IT'S HEAVEN. AND THAT'S A CONDITIONAL PROMISE. WE HAVE TO HOLD UP OUR SIDE OF THE AGREEMENT. YOU SEE, GOD DOESN'T OWE ANYBODY HEAVEN. NOBODY DESERVES TO BE THERE. BUT THE BLOOD OF CHRIST ALLOWS US TO BE THERE IF AND ONLY IF WE'RE WILLING TO ACCEPT GOD'S COVENANT THAT HE'S OFFERED TO US. WE DO THAT THROUGH OBEYING HIM, HAVING FAITH, BELIEVING THAT JESUS IS THE CHRIST, THE SON OF GOD, REPENTING OF OUR SINS, CONFESSING HIS NAME BEFORE MEN, AND BEING BURIED IN BAPTISM FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS. HE WANTS US TO MAKE THAT CHOICE AND HAVE THE BLESSINGS THAT COME WITH IT. AND THAT'S GOOD NEWS FOR US TODAY. NOW, TROY SPRADLIN IS WAITING FOR US IN THE WORKSHOP, WHERE HE'S READY TO START SOME REPAIRS OF OUR UNDERSTANDING OF ZEAL WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE.

>> THE APOSTLE PAUL WROTE, FOR I BEAR THEM WITNESS, THAT THEY HAVE ZEAL FOR GOD, BUT NOT ACCORDING TO KNOWLEDGE IN ROMANS 10:2. HOW MANY PEOPLE DO YOU KNOW WHO TRULY LOVE GOD AND OPENLY EXPRESS IT IN PUBLIC, YET HOW MANY OF THOSE ENTHUSIASTIC PEOPLE ACTUALLY KNOW WHAT THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT? NOW, THAT SOUNDS A LITTLE HARSH AND JUDGMENTAL, I KNOW; BUT THAT'S EXACTLY

WHAT PAUL IS DEALING WITH HERE IN THIS VERSE. HE'S SAYING THAT HE KNOWS PEOPLE WHO SHAMELESSLY TALK ABOUT GOD AND DISPLAY THEIR FAITH WITH FERVOR, BUT THEY DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND OR KNOW WHAT THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT OR KNOW GOD THAT THEY CLAIM TO LOVE SO MUCH. YOU SEE, IN REALITY, THEY ARE STILL MISSING THE MARK. NOW, PERSONALLY, I ENJOY BEING AROUND PEOPLE WHO CONSTANTLY TALK ABOUT JESUS, WHO FREQUENTLY PRAISE GOD FOR EVERY LITTLE THING, OR WHO ARE JUST SO ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT CHRISTIANITY THAT THEY CANNOT CONTAIN THEMSELVES. THEIR ZEAL IS ALMOST CONTAGIOUS, AND IT CERTAINLY LIFTS ME UP AND HELPS ME TO START EXPRESSING MY OWN FAITH MORE AND DO IT MORE BOLDLY AND OPENLY. AND THE TRUTH IS, WE COULD ALL STAND TO BE MORE INTENTIONALLY OPEN AND CANDID ABOUT OUR FAITH. HOWEVER, IT ALSO SADDENS ME AT THE SAME TIME THAT MANY OF MY ZEALOUS, RELIGIOUS FRIENDS ARE NOT AS KNOWLEDGEABLE IN THE WORD OF GOD AS THEY SHOULD BE. IN FACT, SOME OF THEM HAVE ADMITTED THAT THEY'VE NEVER EVEN READ THE WHOLE BIBLE. THEY MAY HAVE READ BITS AND PIECES, BUT CERTAINLY NOT ITS ENTIRETY. SO IN A SENSE, THEY'RE VERY SIMILAR TO THE JEWS THAT PAUL WAS WRITING ABOUT IN THAT THEY HAVE THAT ZEAL, BUT WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE. DID YOU KNOW THAT EVEN PAUL HIMSELF ONCE HAD ENTHUSIASTIC FERVOR, THAT OVERARCHING ZEALOUSY FOR GOD, BUT WITHOUT FULL KNOWLEDGE? YOU SEE, IN HIS LETTER TO THE GALATIANS, HE WROTE, AND I ADVANCED IN JUDAISM BEYOND MANY OF MY CONTEMPORARIES IN MY OWN NATION, BEING MORE EXCEEDINGLY ZEALOUS FOR THE TRADITIONS OF MY FATHERS, IN CHAPTER 1, VERSE 14. BUT LATER, HE CAME TO REALIZE HIS ERROR, AND HE EXPLAINED, FOR I AM THE LEAST OF THE APOSTLES, WHO AM NOT WORTHY TO BE CALLED AN APOSTLE BECAUSE I PERSECUTED THE CHURCH OF GOD, 1ST CORINTHIANS 15:9. SO PARTLY DUE TO HIS FORMER CONDUCT AGAINST THE LORD'S CHURCH, PAUL CONSIDERED HIMSELF THE CHIEF OF SINNERS IN 1ST TIMOTHY 1:15. NOW, THERE'S NO DOUBT THAT PAUL LOVED GOD DEARLY. HE HAD A VERY STRONG FAITH. AFTER ALL, HE ALSO SAID HE WAS A HEBREW OF THE HEBREWS, CONCERNING THE LAW, A PHARISEE; CONCERNING ZEAL, PERSECUTING THE CHURCH; CONCERNING RIGHTEOUSNESS WHICH IS IN THE LAW, BLAMELESS, PHILIPPIANS 3:5-6. NOW, HE THOUGHT HE WAS DOING THE RIGHT THING BY DEFENDING THE FAITH OF THE PEOPLE OF YAHWEH, BUT HE WAS DEAD WRONG. HE THOUGHT HE WAS SERVING GOD AND HIS PEOPLE, BUT INSTEAD HE WAS PERSECUTING THE CHURCH ACCORDING TO ACTS 9:4-5. AND AT THE TIME, PAUL CONSIDERED HIMSELF OBEDIENT TO GOD, BUT IN REALITY, HE WAS ACTUALLY BEING DISOBEYED. PAUL CERTAINLY HAD ZEAL, BUT HE LACKED ONE THING THAT WAS NEEDED, AND THAT IS TO ACCEPT JESUS AS THE MESSIAH, THE SON OF GOD, AS IS WRITTEN ABOUT HIM IN SCRIPTURE, SAYS LUKE 24:27. PAUL NEEDED THE RIGHT KNOWLEDGE AND TO APPLY THAT KNOWLEDGE CORRECTLY; AND FORTUNATELY, HE EVENTUALLY DID, AS WE SEE IN ACTS CHAPTER 26. NOW, BEING ZEALOUS FOR THE LORD IS A WONDERFUL ATTRIBUTE TO HAVE. TO OPENLY AND REGULARLY EXPRESS YOUR FAITH AND ENTHUSIASM AND BOLDNESS IS MUCH NEEDED AND ENCOURAGED BEHAVIOR AMONG ALL THE LORD'S DISCIPLES. WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT JESUS MORE. WE NEED TO GIVE GOD THE GLORY EVERY CHANCE THAT WE CAN AND LET OUR FAITH BE ON FIRE; BUT JUST REMEMBER, IT'S NOT OK TO BELIEVE WHATEVER YOU WANT SIMPLY BECAUSE YOU'RE ZEALOUS ABOUT IT. INSTEAD, LET US HAVE THAT STRONG PASSION FOR THINGS THAT ARE OF SOUND DOCTRINE, LIKE PAUL SAYS IN TITUS 2:1, AND DOING GOOD, AS HE WRITES IN GALATIANS 6:10. YOU SEE, ZEAL COMBINED WITH KNOWLEDGE CAN BE A POWERFUL FORCE FOR GOOD AND FOR GLORIFYING GOD. I PRAY WE ALL HAVE ZEAL WITH KNOWLEDGE.

>> IT'S NOT AN EITHER-OR SITUATION. WE NEED TO HAVE BOTH ZEAL AND KNOWLEDGE. THANKS, TROY. WELL, IT'S TIME TO GRAB A PIECE OF PAPER AND SOMETHING TO WRITE WITH SO YOU CAN TAKE DOWN OUR CONTACT INFORMATION SO YOU CAN ENROLL IN OUR FREE BIBLE COURSE. THOSE VOLUNTEERS DO AN EXCELLENT

JOB, AND WE APPRECIATE THEIR EFFORTS. YOU CAN ALSO ASK US ANY QUESTIONS YOU HAVE. WE LOVE TO ANSWER THEM, AND WE MAY DO SO DURING THE PROGRAM. JIM DEARMON IS GOING TO BE WITH US WITH AFTER THIS FREE OFFER.

>> YOU MAY HAVE QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS ABOUT GOOD NEWS TODAY. WE'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU. OR IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE FREE BIBLE STUDY MATERIALS, PLEASE CONTACT US. OUR MAILING ADDRESS IS GOOD NEWS TODAY, P.O. BOX 206, DUNLAP, TENNESSEE, 37327. AGAIN, THAT'S GOOD NEWS TODAY, P.O. BOX 206, DUNLAP, TENNESSEE, 37327. YOU MAY PREFER TO E-MAIL US AT GOODNEWTODAYTV@GMAIL.COM. THAT'S GOODNEWTODAYTV@GMAIL.COM. OR CALL US TOLL-FREE AT 1-877-384-7221. THAT'S 1-877-384-7221. WE'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU. HEARING FROM OUR AUDIENCE IS ALWAYS GOOD NEWS TO US.

>> THE EASIEST WAY TO ENROLL IN OUR BIBLE COURSE IS ON OUR WEBSITE AT GNTTV.ORG. JUST CLICK WHERE IT SAYS BIBLE COURSE, FILL OUT THE INFORMATION, AND WE'LL GET IT TO YOU. YOU CAN ALSO FIND US ON TRUTH.FM, WHICH HAS A CHANNEL DEDICATED TO GOOD NEWS TODAY. GIVE IT A LISTEN AT TRUTH.FM. NOW HERE'S JIM DEARMAN WITH SOME SOUND WORDS AS HE ASKS THE QUESTION, WILL GOD BLESS YOUR HOME?

>> GOD BLESS OUR HOME. HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU SEEN A PLAQUE OR A FRAMED CROSS STITCH WITH THOSE WORDS HANGING ON A WALL IN SOMEONE'S HOUSE? WELL, WE APPRECIATE THOSE WHO ARE CONCERNED ABOUT MORAL VALUES IN THE HOME AND COUNTRY, AND WE CAN APPRECIATE SUCH A SENTIMENT. HOWEVER, IT IS IMPORTANT TO DO MORE FOR MORALS IN THE HOME THAN TO SIMPLY PUT UP A PLAQUE, EVEN WITH THE BEST OF INTENTIONS. LISTEN TO THE WORDS OF THE WISE MAN IN PROVERBS 3:33, THE CURSE OF THE LORD IS ON THE HOUSE OF THE WICKED, BUT HE BLESSES THE HOME OF THE JUST. NOTICE THE LORD BLESSES THE HOME OF THE JUST. TO BE JUST IS TO BE RIGHT IN GOD'S SIGHT. AND TO BE RIGHT IN GOD'S SIGHT, ONE MUST BE FOLLOWING THE COMMANDMENTS OF THE LORD. THE PSALMIST DECLARED OF GOD, ALL YOUR COMMANDMENTS ARE RIGHTEOUSNESS. RIGHTEOUSNESS, RIGHT DOING, BEING JUST, THEY'RE ALL SYNONYMOUS TERMS WHICH ARE APPLIED TO THOSE WHO DO THE LORD'S COMMANDMENTS. JESUS ASKED, BUT WHY DO YOU CALL ME LORD, LORD AND DO NOT THE THINGS WHICH I SAY, LUKE 6:46.

>> GOD WILL BLESS THE HOME IN WHICH THE PEOPLE OBEY HIS COMMANDMENTS. THANKS FOR THOSE THOUGHTS, JIM. HAVE YOU EVER MISSED AN EPISODE OF GOOD NEWS TODAY AND WISH YOU COULD WATCH IT? HERE'S A FEW WAYS YOU COULD DO THAT: THROUGH OUR WEBSITE, FACEBOOK, OR YOUTUBE. YOU CAN ALSO DOWNLOAD OUR APP AND WATCH IT ON YOUR PHONE, TELEVISION, OR TABLET. THE PROGRAM IS THERE EVERY SUNDAY, SO YOU NEVER HAVE TO MISS AN EPISODE. AND THOSE APPS, LIKE EVERYTHING ELSE, ARE ALWAYS FREE OF CHARGE. IT'S TIME FOR US TO HEAD OVER TO THE PASTIME PORCH, WHERE JOE GUY IS WAITING FOR US. HE'S GOING TO BE COMPARING FAITH AND WORKS.

>> WELL, HELLO. THANKS FOR STOPPING BY. YOU KNOW, THERE'S A STORY THAT I REMEMBER, A BIT OF A JOKE. IT GOES THAT A LITTLE BOY WAS IN SUNDAY SCHOOL WHEN HIS TEACHER ASKED HIM, IF I SOLD MY HOUSE, MY CAR, AND ALL OF MY OTHER POSSESSIONS AND I GAVE ALL THE MONEY TO THE CHURCH, WOULD I GET INTO HEAVEN? OH, NO, TEACHER, HE SAID. OKAY. WELL, IF I SPENT MY WHOLE LIFE BEING CHARITABLE, LOVING MY FAMILY, AND BEING KIND TO EVERYONE THAT I MET, WOULD I GET INTO HEAVEN THEN? OH, NO, ANSWERED

THE LITTLE BOY. THINKING SHE HAD DONE A GOOD JOB EXPLAINING WORKS AND FAITH, THE TEACHER THEN ASKED, WELL, IF I FOLLOW GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION AND I'M FAITHFUL TO ATTEND CHURCH EVERY WEEK AND TRY TO LIVE MY LIFE FOLLOWING GOD'S COMMANDMENTS, WOULD I GET INTO HEAVEN? THE LITTLE BOY REPLIED, NO. WELL, THIS SURPRISED THE TEACHER. SO SHE THEN ASKED, WELL, HOW DO I GET INTO HEAVEN? AND THE LITTLE BOY REPLIED, YOU HAVE TO BE DEAD. THERE ARE MANY PEOPLE WHO THINK THAT NO ACT OF OBEDIENCE IS NECESSARY TO PLACE ONE IN A SAVED CONDITION WITH GOD, THINKING THAT THEY ONLY NEED TO BELIEVE. THERE ARE A LOT OF PROBLEMS WITH THIS BELIEF-ONLY DOCTRINE. JAMES ADDRESSES THIS IN CHAPTER 2, VERSES 14 THROUGH 17, WHERE HE USES THE EXAMPLE OF A BELIEVING PERSON HAVING KNOWLEDGE OF ANOTHER PERSON IN NEED OF CLOTHING AND FOOD. JAMES SHOWS US THAT THE BELIEVING PERSON TAKES NO ACTION TO RESPOND TO THE NEED AND THUS CARRY OUT WHAT HE CLAIMS TO BELIEVE, BASICALLY ONLY SAYING, I BELIEVE THAT YOU'RE IN NEED, AND I BELIEVE THERE ARE WAYS TO MEET YOUR NEEDS, BUT I'M NOT DOING ANYTHING BUT TO WISH YOU GOOD LUCK. JAMES ASKED THE RHETORICAL QUESTION, WHAT DOES THIS PROFIT? AND THEN HE REMINDS US THAT FAITH WITHOUT NECESSARY ACTION, IT'S DEAD. SOMETIMES FOLKS POINT TO EPHESIANS 2:8-9, WHERE PAUL WRITES HOW WE ARE SAVED BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH, NOT OF WORKS, LEST ANY MAN SHOULD BOAST. INDEED, WE ARE SAVED BY THE FREE GIFT OF CHRIST'S SACRIFICE FOR OUR SINS. BUT IS PAUL DISAGREEING WITH JAMES? NOT AT ALL. LOOK AT VERSE 10. PAUL IMMEDIATELY ADDS HOW WE ARE CREATED IN CHRIST BY BECOMING A CHRISTIAN FOR THE PURPOSE OF DOING THE GOOD WORKS THAT GOD HAS ALREADY DECIDED OR REQUIRED. JAMES GOES ON TO SAY IN CHAPTER 2, VERSE 18 THAT FAITH IS SHOWN BY WHAT WE DO. OTHERWISE, WE'RE JUST ALL TALK. IT'S MUCH LIKE GETTING A BIG, OLD WRAPPED GIFT AT CHRISTMAS BUT NEVER OPENING IT. IT'S THERE, WE CAN CLAIM IT'S FOR US, IT'S A FREE GIFT; BUT UNLESS WE OPEN IT, WE FAIL TO ENJOY IT AS IT WAS INTENDED BY THE GIFT GIVER. WHEN IT COMES TO OUR SALVATION, ISN'T IT BEST JUST TO TRUST THE TRUTHS OF THE TIMELESS TEXT OF THE BIBLE? I'M JOE GUY. THANK YOU FOR VISITING.

>> THE MESSAGE FROM JAMES 2 IS CLEAR: FAITH WITHOUT WORKS IS DEAD. THANKS, JOE. WELL, IT'S TIME TO JOIN CHAD DOLLAHITE FOR JUST A MINUTE AS HE'S ASKING THE QUESTION, COME TO CHURCH OR COME TO JESUS?

>> MAY I HAVE JUST A MINUTE OF YOUR TIME? I SAW A QUESTION RECENTLY THAT CAUGHT MY ATTENTION: COME TO CHURCH OR COME TO JESUS? I HEAR THIS CONCEPT A LOT FROM PEOPLE; BUT LET ME ASSURE YOU, IT IS NOT BIBLICAL. WHEN WE STUDY THE NEW TESTAMENT, THE CHURCH IS THE BODY OF CHRIST, EPHESIANS 1:22-23. AND JESUS ADDS THOSE WHO ARE SAVED TO HIS CHURCH, ACTS 2:47. SO BIBLICALLY, YOU CAN'T COME TO JESUS WITHOUT COMING TO HIS CHURCH. PERHAPS PEOPLE HAVE SEEN MANMADE DENOMINATIONALISM FOR SO LONG THAT THEY ARE OPPOSING THAT; AND RIGHTLY SO. WHEN LOOKING AT MANMADE DENOMINATIONS, IT IS A FAR DIFFERENT THING TO COME TO JESUS VERSUS COMING TO CHURCH. BUT THINK ABOUT THIS: MAYBE IT'S TIME WE JUST PATTERN OURSELVES AFTER THE BODY OF CHRIST, THE CHURCH, AS IT'S FOUND IN THE NEW TESTAMENT. THEN WE WOULD BE RID OF THIS FALSE CONCEPT, THIS FALSE DICHOTOMY OF JESUS VERSUS THE CHURCH. THINK ABOUT IT. I'M CHAD DOLLAHITE, AND THIS IS JUST A MINUTE.

>> YOU CAN'T COME TO JESUS WITHOUT COMING TO HIS CHURCH. JESUS IS NOT ONLY THE HEAD OF HIS CHURCH, BUT THE CHURCH IS HIS BODY, THE FULLNESS OF HIM WHO FILLS ALL IN ALL, EPHESIANS 1:23. THANKS, CHAD. IF YOU ENJOY LISTENING TO PODCASTS, WE NOW HAVE FOUR AVAILABLE WHEREVER YOU GET YOUR PODCASTS. A NEW EPISODE OF GOOD NEWS TODAY DAILY DEVOTIONAL TIME GETS RELEASED EVERY DAY. IT'S A GREAT WAY TO START YOUR DAY WITH A DAILY DOSE OF GOOD NEWS. EVERY WEEK, THERE ARE NEW EPISODES OF GOOD NEWS TODAY WEEKLY, HAVE A BIBLE QUESTION, AND SOUND WORDS WITH JIM DEARMAN. IN JUST A MOMENT, WE'LL GIVE OUR BIBLE QUESTION TO ANTHONY DISMUKE AND TROY SPRADLIN. IT'S COMING FROM MATTHEW 25, SO GO AHEAD AND TURN THERE IN YOUR BIBLE.

>> (SINGING)

>> NOW WE HAVE A BIBLE QUESTION FOR ANTHONY AND TROY: IS THERE A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN EVERLASTING AND ETERNAL IN MATTHEW 25:46?

>> DO YOU WANT TO HAVE ETERNAL LIFE?

>> DO I WANT TO HAVE ETERNAL LIFE?

>> OR DO YOU WANT TO HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE?

>> WAIT A MINUTE. I THINK I WANT BOTH.

>> OKAY. WELL, THAT'S A GOOD ANSWER. OUR QUESTION, IT LEADS US TO OUR QUESTION TODAY. OUR QUESTION TODAY IS, IS THERE A DIFFERENCE IN THE AMOUNT OF TIME BETWEEN EVERLASTING PUNISHMENT AND ETERNAL LIFE, WHICH WE SEE IN MATTHEW 25:46? THAT'S OUR QUESTION.

>> OKAY.

>> IS THERE A DIFFERENCE? SO FIRST THING WE WANT TO DO, LET'S READ WHAT IT SAYS.

>> OKAY. WELL, IN MATTHEW 25:46 IT SAYS - AND THIS IS THE NEW KING JAMES - AND THESE WILL GO AWAY INTO EVERLASTING PUNISHMENT, BUT THE RIGHTEOUS INTO ETERNAL LIFE.

>> OKAY. RIGHT. SO THE SHORT ANSWER TO THAT IS NO.

>> BUT IT'S TWO DIFFERENT WORDS.

>> THEY ARE TWO DIFFERENT WORDS, BUT YET IN THE GREEK, THEY ARE THE SAME. THE SAME WORD IS BEING USED. SO IT MEANS IT'S ETERNAL, IT'S GOING TO LAST FOREVER, THERE'S NO END. AND I THINK THE PROBLEM IS WHEN PEOPLE THINK ABOUT PUNISHMENT, IT'S ALWAYS A MEANS TO AN END. IT'S ALWAYS LIKE, OH, THIS IS HURTING RIGHT NOW, BUT I KNOW SOON IT'LL BE OVER. YOU ALWAYS THINK OF PAIN AND PUNISHMENT IN THAT KIND OF WAY: AT SOME POINT, IT'LL BE OVER. YOU GET A JAIL SENTENCE, SOMETIMES YOU GET A PUNISHMENT, YOUR PARENTS PUT YOU ON PUNISHMENT, IT'LL BE OVER AT SOME POINT. BUT GOD IS MAKING THE POINT VERY CLEAR HERE THAT THIS PUNISHMENT THAT WE'LL ENDURE IS GOING TO BE FOREVER.

>> THAT'S RIGHT.

>> AND TIME DOESN'T EXIST WHEN WE TALK ABOUT EVERLASTING OR ETERNAL.

>> EXACTLY.

>> THERE'S NO TIME.

>> EXACTLY. AND YOU KNOW, IT'S ONE OF THOSE THINGS WHERE PEOPLE WANT TO, AS YOU SAID, THEY WANT IT TO END. AND SO THAT'S WHERE THIS DOCTRINE OF ANNIHILATION COMES FROM, WHERE ONCE YOU GO INTO PUNISHMENT, WHY WOULD GOD PUNISH SOMEONE FOR FOREVER? BUT THE QUESTION IS, WELL, WAIT A MINUTE: WE WANT FOREVER WHEN IT COMES TO EVERLASTING LIFE. WHY WOULDN'T GOD, WHO IS JUST AND WHO IS THE CREATOR, IF HE SAYS EVERLASTING, THEN IT IS EVERLASTING. AND I'M REMINDED OF ISAIAH 55, WHEN HE SAYS, FOR MY THOUGHTS ARE NOT YOUR THOUGHTS, NOR ARE YOUR WAYS MY WAYS, SAYS THE LORD; FOR AS THE HEAVENS ARE HIGHER THAN THE EARTH, SO ARE MY WAYS HIGHER THAN YOUR WAYS, AND MY THOUGHTS, YOUR THOUGHTS. SO WE SHOULDN'T USE OUR OWN HUMAN THINKING TO TRY TO DETERMINE WHAT IS ETERNAL AND WHAT'S NOT.

>> RIGHT. AND ULTIMATELY THE THING IS THAT THEY'RE BOTH GOING TO EXIST AT THE SAME TIME.

>> THAT'S RIGHT.

>> THEY'RE BOTH GOING TO ENDURE FOREVER. ONE IS JUST BETTER THAN THE OTHER. AND YOU GET TO CHOOSE WHICH WAY YOU'RE GOING TO GO.

>> THAT'S THE POINT, YES.

>> YOU GET TO CHOOSE, OKAY? SO IF YOU DON'T LIKE THAT IDEA OF EVERLASTING PUNISHMENT, MAYBE THAT WORD IS BOTHERING YOU, YOU THINK IT NEEDS TO BE A TIME DIFFERENCE, NO. TIME DOESN'T EXIST, IT DOESN'T END. IT'S GOING TO BE FOREVER. AND THEN ON THE OTHER SIDE, JOY. YOU'RE IN HEAVEN WITH YOUR FATHER.

>> THAT'S RIGHT.

>> IT'S A FANTASTIC PLACE. LOVE IS ALL AROUND. AND SO THAT'S WHERE WE WOULD HOPE YOU WOULD WANT TO BE, BECAUSE THAT ENDURES FOREVER AS WELL.

>> AMEN.

>> ANOTHER EXCELLENT ANSWER. WE'VE LOOKED AT A LOT OF COMPARISONS IN TODAY'S EPISODE, AND WE HOPE THAT YOU ALWAYS COMPARE RELIGIOUS TEACHING AGAINST THE WORD OF GOD TO SEE IF THESE THINGS ARE SO, ACTS 17:11. IF YOU NEED TO HEAR OUR PROGRAM ONE MORE TIME, YOU CAN DO THAT SO YOU CAN CHECK THE SCRIPTURES. YOU CAN DO IT THROUGH OUR WEBSITE, THROUGH OUR APPS, OR THROUGH OUR PODCASTS. MAYBE YOU STILL HAVE A QUESTION. GO AHEAD AND ASK US. WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU. WE MIGHT EVEN ANSWER THAT QUESTION DURING THE PROGRAM. REMEMBER THAT WE LOVE YOU, WE'RE PRAYING FOR YOU, AND WE WANT YOU TO MAKE IT TO HEAVEN.

>> SINGING: GOOD NEWS TODAY