

When good things happen to good people.

What is wrong with living a good life without God at the center of it.

I have a friend and probably many of you do as well

My friend is a good person

Trustworthy loyal helpful friendly kind thrifty brave clean socially responsible..he recycles

My friend is a Christian casualty

Hurt by a new 'Christian' a zealous young man who said things about his being born in sin

and included some negative statements about his mother being a sinner, etc.

Good sound Bible stuff

My friend wants nothing to do with 'church' etc.

He is not alone...I have more than a few non-Christian

They are not anti-Christ...just anti-Christian...anti-church...anti-religion
...and it's often really hard to argue with them

They aren't talking Philosophy or creed they are just telling me
about an experience that they had and where it left them

...and for the most part they are really really good people

What's wrong with living a moral life without God at the center of it.

What's wrong about living a good and moral life without God even at the edge of it.

What's wrong with man-made-goodness

It gives glory to the individual...to the creation rather than the creator

God is good - I am good - I am God post modernism/secular humanism

...New Age

Good becomes optional...It becomes a purely personal choice

...it takes what God has given us and sees it as something we give ourself

It places the individual at the center of the individuals life

It leaves room for moral flexibility or moral relativity

It fails to propagate goodness playing into the hands of the enemy
so it doesn't bear fruit

What is the most important thing to realize about these 'wrongs'

So one thing that all of these have in common:

Remember: They all from our point of view come from a Christian perspective and as such have absolutely no value whatsoever in bringing any non-believer even one millimeter closer to experiencing God.

Let's pray a moment: Heavenly Father I want to thank you that You and You alone through the power of your Holy Spirit have the power and the responsibility of bringing people closer to you. I thank you for [John 15:5](#) where You told us, "I am the Vine, you are the branches. When you're joined with me and I with you, the relation intimate and

organic, the harvest is sure to be abundant. Separated, you can't produce a thing. Anyone who separates from me is deadwood, gathered up and thrown on the bonfire. But if you make yourselves at home with me and my words are at home in you, you can be sure that whatever you ask will be listened to and acted upon. This is how my Father shows who he is—when you produce grapes, when you mature as my disciples. We thank You for showing us your will and your way and your work..Amen

So...we're pretty much off the hook right...not really
God provides the the plan...the power... and the push
So what's our part in this
First things first...
What is the first part of this evangelism process?

Well it certainly helps to actually care that people get saved...and want them to get saved.

Remember the story of Jonah. God sent him to preach to Nineveh because they really needed it so he went off in the opposite direction, storm, thrown overboard, swallowed by a big fish, 'he consented/repented', delivered by fish express to Nineveh, preached repentance to the Ninevites who (what?) repented so God was merciful toward them. So Jonah did what? Thanked God for his goodness and mercy?
No
Jonah 4:1-5

1-2 Jonah was furious. He lost his temper. He yelled at God, "God! I knew it—when I was back home, I knew this was going to happen! That's why I ran off to Tarshish! I knew you were sheer grace and mercy, not easily angered, rich in love, and ready at the drop of a hat to turn your plans of punishment into a program of forgiveness!

3"So, God, if you won't kill them, kill me! I'm better off dead!"

4God said, "What do you have to be angry about?"

5But Jonah just left. He went out of the city to the east and sat down in a sulk. He put together a makeshift shelter of leafy branches and sat there in the shade to see what would happen to the city.

Interesting thing though...even without Jonah wanting the Ninevites saved..God saved them.

They heard His message and they repented and were saved.

Have you ever encountered someone who you knew didn't deserve forgiveness?
Of course you have...at least one.

I know I have. I keep an image of him around to help me remember. Just in case.
Pray a little prayer with me.

Lord Jesus

Thank You that in your plan of salvation I don't need to deserve your Grace to
come to You.

I just need to come.

And believe that I need Your grace...

And believe that You are who Your word says you are.

I had an experience once...

I met Jesus...

When the power of the Lord is coming through
what do we really need to do?

Get out of the way!

Prepare ye the way of the Lord means throw out your big fat excess baggage
and step aside

Why?...It's certainly not because you are going to stop what God is doing
Or that you are sooooo vital to the process that God's will would be thwarted by your
failure to co-operate...Jonah.

It's because God wants to do something wonderful and He wants you to be a part of it.
It's why he created you...

It's the God life breath that he breathed into our nostrils

He is the true good inside of you and your family and friends both saved and unsaved
Breathe in and know that He is the good inside...

As we wind up another year and put away our Christmas stockings I would like to share
a success story from the year gone by...actually two years gone by.

Our God is the God of restoration and this is a story of restoration and the opening of a
gift.

Penny's story...

Penny's song...

Prayer