

God Helps Those Who Help Themselves

Read: 1 Peter 1:13-21

Main idea: We are tempted to believe that God does not love us unless we work for his love and approval, but we can never measure up to God's glory nor can we earn His grace.

Key Verses: "but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy." (1:15-16 ESV)

Key Principles:

- Our flesh wants to add our own works to our own credit for what has been done for our souls by Christ alone.
- Satan uses this lie to stroke our pride and increase our doubt so that he can steal our hope, kill our worship and destroy our witness.
- This is also the lie of all other world religions that teach followers that if you are good enough, then you will be accepted.
- The gospel of Jesus Christ teaches us that we are saved by grace, through faith, not of our own doing, but as a gift of God so that none of us can boast. (Ephesians 2:8)
- After repentance and faith, the only proper response to the gospel is humility and dependance on God for sanctification and glorification.
- God helps those who cannot help themselves by sending the only One that is able to help us, His only Son, Jesus.

Discussion:

1. What are some common examples of popular "Christian sayings" that are not in the Bible? What is the danger of believing something to be true that God never actually said?
2. Read Romans 5:6. What does the Bible teach about God helping us? Why is this an important message in contrast to typical worldviews?
3. Why can't we help ourselves? How does God help us in spite of our sinfulness and inadequacies?
4. How does the knowledge of the coming of Christ help us to overcome the need to help ourselves? What about His example of holiness? And His character?
5. Why is it important for us to show humility instead of pride when it comes to our lives and eternity? How can we do this?
6. How can our hopeless and helpless condition help us to share the gospel with others in light of God's grace?

Prayer:

- Pray that God would reveal the areas of your life that you are not trusting in Him.
- Pray:
 - That we would be humble instead of prideful.
 - That we would be totally dependent upon God for His provisions and grace.
 - That we would live a life that shows others the power of God in our daily lives.

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- I. Find hope in His coming. 1:13-14**
 - 1. Discipline your life. 1:13
 - 2. Deny former lust. 1:14

- II. See holiness in His conduct. 1:15-16**
 - 1. It is the essence of God's character. 1:15-16
 - 2. It is the expectation of God's children. 1:16

- III. Seek humility in His character. 1:17-21**
 - 1. He is an impartial Father. 1:17
 - 2. He is an incorruptible Redeemer. 1:18-19
 - 3. He is an indestructible Savior. 1:20-21

NEXT WEEK:
Money is the Root of All Evil
1 Timothy 6:3-10