

# All Good People Go To Heaven . . . Right? <sup>1</sup>

*Icebreaker: Name something good/kind that you have done in the past week.*

The nation's attention was riveted to the testimony of nine coal miners who had been trapped deep beneath the earth's surface in Pennsylvania. One miner expressed concern for his soul, since he'd never been baptized. Another assured him that he was okay—but was he?



This young miner said that he asked an older veteran during the ordeal, “Will I go to heaven. . . cause I know the Bible says you’ve got to be baptized to go to heaven, and I haven’t been baptized.”

His co-worker and friend, in an attempt to comfort the concerned man, responded, “All good people go to heaven,” and then he stressed, “. . . no matter what.” \*

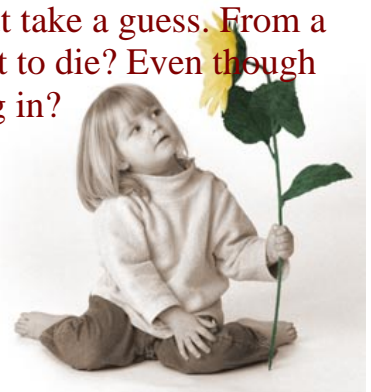
To clarify, this discussion is not about baptism. It is about the world's faulty views, like “good people go to heaven.”

*Why do you think the world comes up with some of these faulty statements?*

*What is the world's definition of Good? How good do you have to be to be called good? Is there like a goodness meter and even if you do a few bad things, if your good out ways the bad are you still good?*

*From the faulty statements about good people, what does it imply about how salvation is obtained?*

*None of us are in this situation so its hard to say how we would react but take a guess. From a miner's perspective, how would you react if you were trapped and about to die? Even though these statements may comfort you, does that make them worth believing in?*



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\* [http://www.christiancourier.com/articles/read/all\\_good\\_people\\_go\\_to\\_heaven\\_no\\_matter\\_what](http://www.christiancourier.com/articles/read/all_good_people_go_to_heaven_no_matter_what)

# All Good People Go To Heaven . . . Right? <sup>2</sup>

*Acts 17:24-28*

Our Creator formed us with a searching heart. In what ways, good or bad, does this drive the human race?



If God is not far and it is easy to find Him, why do people still come up with these worldly views?

*Romans 3*

How is God's faithfulness shown?

Psalms 51:5 states that's "Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me." Why do we as humans sometimes we forget this?

"Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin." What is this saying about our ability to control our righteousness?

If we're sinful from birth and we can't control our righteousness by following the rules and being good, how then are we made righteous?



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## Acts 17:24-28

24"The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. 25And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else. 26From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. 27God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. 28'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.'

## Romans 3

### *God's Faithfulness*

1What advantage, then, is there in being a Jew, or what value is there in circumcision? 2Much in every way! First of all, they have been entrusted with the very words of God.

3What if some did not have faith? Will their lack of faith nullify God's faithfulness? 4Not at all! Let God be true, and every man a liar. As it is written:

"So that you may be proved right when you speak  
and prevail when you judge."<sup>[a]</sup>

5But if our unrighteousness brings out God's righteousness more clearly, what shall we say? That God is unjust in bringing his wrath on us? (I am using a human argument.) 6Certainly not! If that were so, how could God judge the world? 7Someone might argue, "If my falsehood enhances God's truthfulness and so increases his glory, why am I still condemned as a sinner?" 8Why not say—as we are being slanderously reported as saying and as some claim that we say—"Let us do evil that good may result"? Their condemnation is deserved.

### *No One is Righteous*

9What shall we conclude then? Are we any better<sup>[b]</sup>? Not at all! We have already made the charge that Jews and Gentiles alike are all under sin. 10As it is written:

"There is no one righteous, not even one;

11there is no one who understands,  
no one who seeks God.

12All have turned away,  
they have together become worthless;  
there is no one who does good,  
not even one."<sup>[c]</sup>

13"Their throats are open graves;

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their tongues practice deceit."[d]

"The poison of vipers is on their lips."[e]

14"Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness."[f]

15"Their feet are swift to shed blood;

16ruin and misery mark their ways,

17and the way of peace they do not know."[g]

18"There is no fear of God before their eyes."[h]

19Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. 20Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin.

## *Righteousness Through Faith*

21But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. 22This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, 23for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. 25God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement,[i] through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished— 26he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

27Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. On what principle? On that of observing the law? No, but on that of faith. 28For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from observing the law. 29Is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles too? Yes, of Gentiles too, 30since there is only one God, who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through that same faith. 31Do we, then, nullify the law by this faith? Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law.