

CONDEMNING BELIEFS ABOUT JESUS

He is Helpful but not Essential

John 6:28-29

Introduction:

1. The Problems (John 6:28)

A) They misunderstand what Jesus had said (John 6:28a)

> Jesus had exhorted these 'seekers' to labor for that which gives everlasting life (John 6:27)

> They still don't "get it" (John 6:28)

B) They misunderstand themselves

> They believe that they are able to meet God's standard – to do His works

They are confident that they are basically good

The problem is that they are looking at the outside but God looks at the heart

This was what their religious leaders believed (Matt 23:25-28; Luke 18:9-14)

> These seekers don't know that they have a spiritual cancer that is in them - sin

So they recognize Him to be the Prophet of God who can bless them (John 6:14)

So they will seek to make Him their king who can provide for them (John 6:15)

So they will acknowledge that Jesus is a "rabbi" who can teach them (John 6:25)

> These seekers don't know that their sin has blinded them spiritually

C) These seekers have not correctly diagnosed their problem

> Jesus' diagnosis of their spiritual condition (John 3:16-18)

This is the story of the Bible

How far did this spiritual disease – sin, spread? (Romans 3:9-12, 23)

D) The Prognosis

> Word study – a medical term, the act of foretelling the course and outcome of a disease.

> Sin has a 100% morality rate

2. The Prescription (John 6:29)

A) Believe in the One who God has sent

> Good works cannot remove the guilt and stain of sin

> This is why God sent His Son Jesus (John 6:29)

Not to help good people be better but to provide forgiveness

God is not an unrighteous judge who lets the guilty go free because of good works

Jesus came to serve our sentence of death for us (Isaiah 53:3-6)

B) Jesus isn't just helpful in relationship to salvation – He is essential (John 14:6; Acts 4:12)

APPLICATION

1) Why do many people resent being told that they are sinners in need of a Savior

They think that is judgmental and arrogant.

2) It's interesting that just about every religion and every religious person has a place for Jesus in their system

Only Christianity says Jesus is essential, not just helpful

According to the Bible, there aren't many ways to God, there is One Way to God – Jesus Christ

He is God's gift sent to free us from our sin and its penalty

3. Faith in Jesus, and Jesus alone, is our only hope of salvation

Among the believers in Galatia a false teaching about the gospel began to get popular

Paul powerfully condemns such a gospel as no gospel at all

But notice the transformation in Paul's life because of the work of Jesus Christ (Galatians 2:20-21)

Eph 2:8-10 - For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.