



The HARSH *but* GOOD NEWS

Being Sure to Move from Creeds to Deeds

Luke 3:7-14

Dr. Mike Fabarez • Focal Point Radio Ministries • February 2 & 3, 2013 • Gospel of Luke, week 12 • Msg. # 13-03

1. Live _____ (vv.7-8a)

7 He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?"

8 Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham.

9 Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

2. Don't _____ (vv.8b-9)

10 And the crowds asked him, "What then shall we do?" **11** And he answered them, "Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise." **12** Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?" **13** And he said to them,

"Collect no more than you are authorized to do." **14** Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what shall we do?"

3. Prove _____ (vv.10-14)

And he said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages." (ESV)

Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's sermon. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point of today's study. It is also helpful when you are able to discuss your answers with others.

1. Read **Titus 1:16**. What are some of the rationalizations and excuses that are used to insist that claims that one "knows God" should not be called into question regardless of chronically sinful behavior?
2. Read **1 John 3:1-10**. While none of us are now perfectly "like Christ" (v.2), real Christians inevitably become increasingly "Christlike" (vv.3-10). What are some of the changes you have seen in your life recently that show that you are growing in your "practice of righteousness" (vv.7, 10)?
3. Read **Isaiah 1:10-18**. How would you advise someone who sees himself in this passage and tells you he will stop attending church, praying, and reading his Bible because he realizes he is just going through the motions?
4. Read **Ezekiel 33:29-33**. Much like John the Baptist's indictment, God compares the hearers of Ezekiel's sermons to people "enjoying" a musical performance. What are some specific things you can do to ensure that you don't become guilty of this sin?

The CBC Bible Reading Schedule for this Week:

Go to ESV.org (Reading Plans: Through the Bible) for schedule prompts.

February 3rd

Ex.31-33 & Mt.22:23-46

February 4th

Ex.34-36 & Mt.23:1-22

February 5th

Ex.37-38 & Mt.23:23-39

February 6th

Ex.39-40 & Mt.24:1-22

February 7th

Lev.1-3 & Mt.24:23-51

February 8th

Lev.4-6 & Mt.25:1-30

February 9th

Lev.7-9 & Mt.25:31-46

February 10th

Lev.10-12 & Mt.26:1-19

The following related sermons are also available for free as mp3 downloads or audio streaming on the Focal Point Website (FocalPointMinistries.org).

Msg. # 09-21 – **Rethinking Outward Signs and Inward Realities**

Msg. # 06-04 – **Working & Trusting to Prove the Reality of My Faith**

Msg. # 11-31 – **Sorting Out God's Orders from Our Opinions**

Msg. # 09-32 – 09-36 – **Set Free to Live Right** (a five-part series)

Msg. # 11-22 – 11-24 – **Pursuing Holiness** (a three-part series)

Here are some books which may assist you in a deeper study of the truths presented in today's sermon. While Pastor Mike cannot endorse every concept presented in each book, he does believe these resources will be helpful in profitably thinking through today's topic.

Carty, Jay. **Counter Attack: Taking Back Ground Lost to Sin**. Third Edition. Yes Ministries, 1988.

Edwards, Jonathan. **Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God & Pardon for the Greatest of Sinners**. Barbour, 1998.

Fabarez, Mike. **Praying for Sunday: You, Your Pastor, and the Next Sermon**. Focal Point, 2009.

Gromacki, Robert. **Salvation is Forever**. Moody Press, 1973.

Guinness, Os. **God in the Dark: The Assurance of Faith Beyond a Shadow of Doubt**. Crossway Books, 1996.

Lawson, Steven L. **Absolutely Sure: Settle the Question of Eternal Life**. Multnomah, 1999.

Lloyd-Jones, Martyn. **Assurance of Our Salvation: Studies in John 17**. Crossway Books, 2000.

MacArthur, John. **Faith Works: The Gospel According to the Apostles**. Zondervan, 1994.

_____. **Saved Without A Doubt: How to Be Sure of Your Salvation**. Victor Books, 1992.

Needham, David. **Alive for the First Time: A Fresh Look at the New Birth Miracle**. Multnomah Press, 1995.

Owen, John. **Christians Are Forever**. Reprint, Grace Publications, 1993.

Pettegrew, Larry D. **The New Covenant Ministry of the Holy Spirit**. Kregel, 2001.

Saucy, Robert L. "'Sinners' who are Forgiven or 'Saints' who Sin?" *Bibliotheca Sacra* vol.152, no.608 (October 1995).

Whitney, Donald. **How Can I Be Sure I'm a Christian? What the Bible Says About Assurance**. NavPress, 1994.

Zigarelli, Michael. **Faith at Work: Overcoming the Obstacles of Being Like Christ in the Workplace**. Moody Press, 2000.