

dec 11, 2022

getting into heaven

a fellow finds himself in front of the pearly gates. st. peter explains that it's not easy to get into heaven. (that's a lie. it is easy. but on with the story.)

there are some criteria that must be met before entry is allowed. for example, was the man a church-goer or religious? no?

st. peter told him that's bad.

was he generous, giving money to the poor or to charities? no?

st. peter told him that that, too, was bad.

did he do any good deeds, such as helping his neighbor? anything? no?

st. peter was becoming concerned.

exasperated, the saint says, 'look, everybody does something nice sometime. work with me, here! i'm trying to help. now think!'

the man thinks for a minute, then says, 'well, i did help this old lady once. i came out of a store and saw that a dozen hell's angels had taken her purse and were shoving her around. i threw my bags down and got her purse back, then i told the biggest biker there that he

was cowardly and i spat in his face.'

'wow,' said st. peter, 'that's impressive! when did this happen?'

'oh, about 15 minutes ago,' replied the man.

as amusing as one may find this little story, the fact is it's true all that matters is how one ends the race and not how they began. a lifetime of bad decisions and self-indulgence can all be erased by a repentant heart. that's how much God loves us and wants to fellowship with us.

while it's not true salvation is dependent upon one's good works (as the apostle james tries to drive home) "faith without works is dead." james 2:20 just as "faith is the substances of things hoped for" heb 11:1, works is the evidence of ones true repentance. "do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in the power of your hand to do so." prov 3:27

"let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous." 1 john 3:7
bring all you garbage, fears and doubts to Jesus. then leave them at the foot of the cross. the Holy Spirit will help you grow into your new life.