

Who Then Can Be Saved?

Luke 18:9-14





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Introduction



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Introduction

Can we be made right with God on our own merit and our own good works, or do we need a righteousness outside ourselves?



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I. The Conceited (Luke 18:9-12)



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I. The Conceited (Luke 18:9-12)

Luke 18:9

“He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt.”



The Pharisees loved rules and laws they thought would make them more pleasing to God



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I. The Conceited (Luke 18:9-12)

Matthew 23:13-15

“But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut the kingdom of heaven in people's faces. For you neither enter yourselves nor allow those who would enter to go in. Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel across sea and land to make a single proselyte, and when he becomes a proselyte, you make him twice as much a child of hell as yourselves.”



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I. The Conceited (Luke 18:9-12)

Luke 18:10

“Two men went up into the temple to pray,
one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.”



Tax collectors were considered utter outcasts, defectors, and traitors to the Jewish Nation



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I. The Conceited (Luke 18:9-12)

Luke 18:11-12

The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: “God, I thank You that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.”



One of the biggest downfalls of the Pharisees was they tended to focus almost exclusively on externals



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I. The Conceited (Luke 18:9-12)

1 Samuel 16:7b

“For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.”

Rather than merely externals, the Lord is much more concerned with the condition of our heart



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II. The Confident (Matthew 19:16-22)



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II. The Confident (Matthew 19:16-22)

Matthew 19:16

And behold, a man came up to Him, saying, “Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?”



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II. The Confident (Matthew 19:16-22)

Matthew 19:17

And He said to him, “Why do you ask Me about what is good? There is only One who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments.”



Instead of immediately sharing the Gospel solution,
we see Jesus point this man to the Law



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II. The Confident (Matthew 19:16-22)

Matthew 19:18-19

He said to Him, “Which ones?” And Jesus said, “You shall not murder, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother, and You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”



Bible scholars often divide the Ten Commandments into two tables:
The first four deal with our relationship with God
The final six deal with our relationship to others



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II. The Confident (Matthew 19:16-22)

Matthew 19:20

The young man said to Him,

“All these I have kept. What do I still lack?”



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II. The Confident (Matthew 19:16-22)

Mark 10:20

And he said to Him,

“Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth.”



“And Jesus, looking at him, loved him.” Mark 10:21



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II. The Confident (Matthew 19:16-22)

Pride is blinding



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II. The Confident (Matthew 19:16-22)

Matthew 19:21

Jesus said to him, “If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.”



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II. The Confident (Matthew 19:16-22)

Matthew 19:16

And behold, a man came up to Him, saying, “Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?”



- I. You shall have no other gods before Me
- II. You shall not make idols



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II. The Confident (Matthew 19:16-22)

Matthew 19:21

Jesus said to him, “If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.”



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II. The Confident (Matthew 19:16-22)

If you don't realize what a wretched sinner you are,
you'll never realize what a gracious Savior He is



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II. The Confident (Matthew 19:16-22)

The Law is designed to destroy, crush and annihilate us and our laughable notions that we can ever be “good” enough before a thrice holy God



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II. The Confident (Matthew 19:16-22)

Matthew 19:22

“When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.”



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II. The Confident (Matthew 19:16-22)

Luke 14:26

“If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple.”



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II. The Confident (Matthew 19:16-22)

Our love for Christ ought to be so immense,
that our “love” for anything else should
seem like hate in comparison

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III. The Contrite (Luke 18:13)



But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' Luke 18:13



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III. The Contrite (Luke 18:13)

The tax collector wasn't merely sorry,
he actually treasured something different
than the prideful Pharisee



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IV. The Contemptible (Luke 7:36-50)



“One of the Pharisees asked Him to eat with him, and He went into the Pharisee's house and reclined at table. And behold, a woman of the city, who was a sinner, when she learned that He was reclining at table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of ointment.” Luke 7:36-37



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IV. The Contemptible (Luke 7:36-50)



“...and standing behind Him at his feet, weeping, she began to wet His feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head and kissed His feet and anointed them with the ointment.” Luke 7:38



This woman took the most valuable thing she likely owned and opened it and poured out the contents because she had found her true treasure



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IV. The Contemptible (Luke 7:36-50)



Now when the Pharisee who had invited Him saw this, he said to himself, “If this Man were a prophet, He would have known who and what sort of woman this is who is touching Him, for she is a sinner.” And Jesus answering said to him, “Simon, I have something to say to you.” And he answered, “Say it, Teacher.” Luke 7:39-40



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IV. The Contemptible (Luke 7:36-50)



“A certain moneylender had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. When they could not pay, he cancelled the debt of both. Now which of them will love him more?” Simon answered, “The one, I suppose, for whom he cancelled the larger debt.” And He said to him, “You have judged rightly.” Luke 7:41-43



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IV. The Contemptible (Luke 7:36-50)



Then turning toward the woman he said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not ceased to kiss my feet. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment.”

Luke 7:44-46



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IV. The Contemptible (Luke 7:36-50)



Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little.” And He said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.” Then those who were at table with him began to say among themselves, “Who is this, who even forgives sins?” And He said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.” Luke 7:47-50



Do you realize just how spiritually bankrupt
you are apart from Christ?



“I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.” Luke 18:14



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Conclusion:

What are you trusting in for your eternity?



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Conclusion:

In order to be truly saved,
we need an alien righteousness
(a righteousness outside ourselves)



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Conclusion:

A Profile of the Lukewarm



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Conclusion:

When was the last time you made a decision for Christ that cost you something?



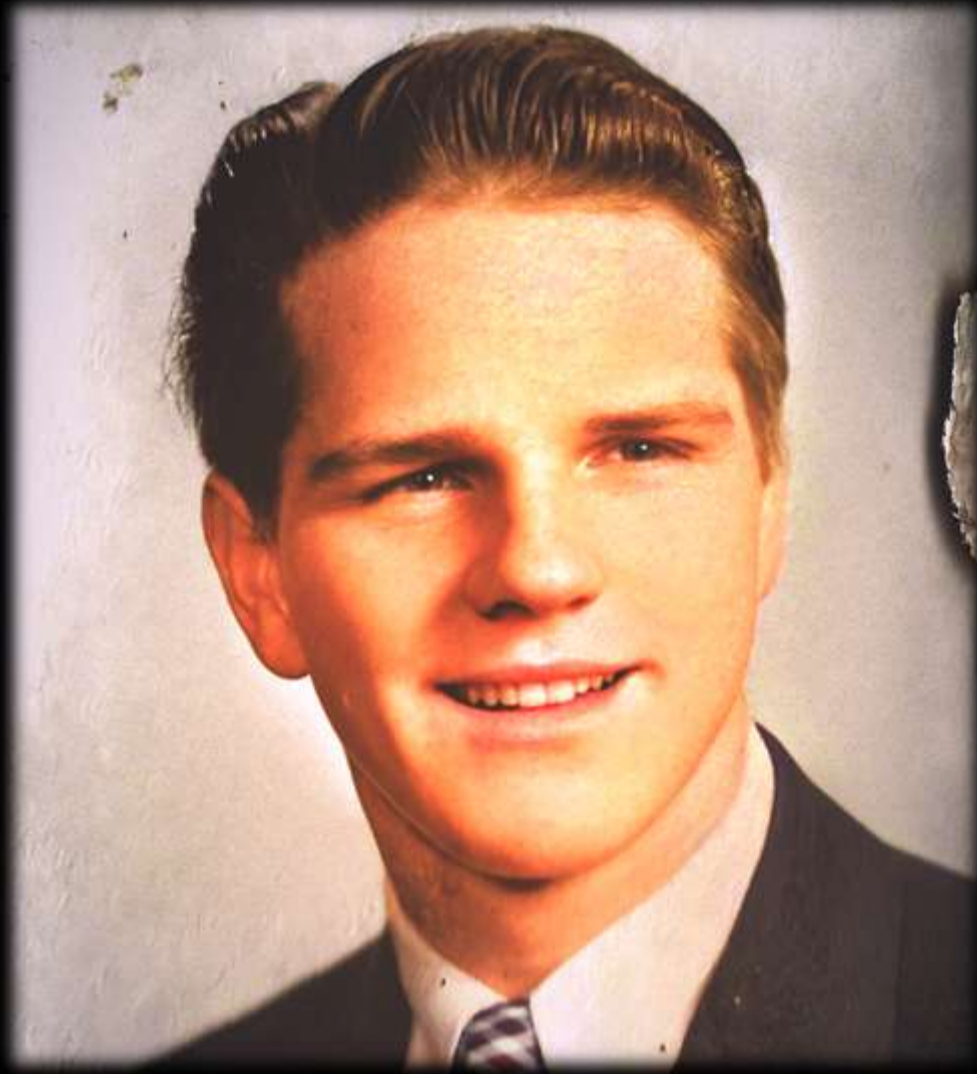
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Conclusion:

Jesus Christ is the only person who
has ever lived that you can
never overestimate His worth



“He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.”

Jim Elliot

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