

26th September 2021 – Pentecost +18 – Dave's Sermon

Last week we looked at the good works of churches and Christians

Today Jesus reminds us that Christians aren't the only ones that do good works.

As someone I know likes to remind me, Christians aren't the only ones with morals you know.

So I think Jesus is telling us at least two things;

Non-Christians can be good people who can be brought into the kingdom of heaven.

There are some churches and Christians who basically say something like.

if you don't believe in Jesus you can't get into heaven.

I don't think Jesus said or indicated that.

I know that Jesus said that if people believe in Him, trust Him with their lives

and try to live as He wants us to, they /we will be brought into the Kingdom of Heaven.

But I don't think Jesus ever said that those who don't believe in Him cannot get into the Kingdom of Heaven.

In fact He said people who didn't believe in Him could be brought into Heaven

if it was shown that they cared for other people, particularly the poor and downtrodden, refugees, prisoners, the sick and so on.

The parable of the sheep and the goats in Matthew and other sayings of Jesus illustrate the truth of this.

The truth is that Jesus/God wants to get people into heaven, whether they believe in Him or not.

It is not for churches or Christians to decide who God allows into heaven.

I'm reminded a story of a church goer who had a near-death experience;

He was in heaven and surprised to see people there whom he didn't think should be there.

He was more surprised by the number there who were surprised to see him there.

We Christians should understand and rejoice

Because we know that it is not because we are good or wonderful that we will be allowed into heaven

but because of God's love, mercy and forgiveness bought for us and all people

By Jesus dying on the cross and by rising from the dead which enables us to be brought into God's kingdom.

We should rejoice because we and all people have been given the possibility to be with God in heaven.

And we should not be surprised that God has made other pathways for all sorts of people to join us in God's kingdom which we call Heaven