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My friend, to be good enough to go to heaven we must have a righteousness that equals God's righteousness. (*2 Corinthians 5:21*) The "good news" of the gospel is that not only will Jesus forgive your sins, but He is also offering - freely - His very own righteousness as a gift. (*Read Romans 5:17*) Do you need a new start in life? Do you need a relationship with the God of heaven who loves you very much? God is ready to have compassion. God is ready to have compassion on you, to fall on your neck and kiss you. (*Luke 15:20-24*) Would you consider turning to Him through Jesus Christ? Accepting Him as your personal Savior and following Him as your Lord? He loves you very much!

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(Tract No. 09 by Don Krow)**

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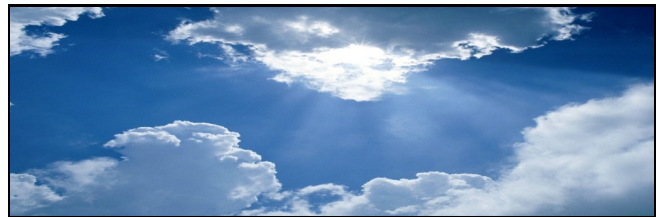
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## **DO GOOD PEOPLE GO TO HEAVEN?**

I often ask people, "What do you think a person has to do to go to heaven?" Most people respond by saying something like this, "Do the best you can, Live a good life, observe the golden rule, keep the 10 commandments, etc." But I'd like to ask you, "Has anyone really kept the Ten Commandments?" The Ten Commandments are indeed God's standard of righteousness (*Romans 7:12*), but who has ever kept them?

Most of us have a tendency to compare ourselves with other people. If you compared yourself to me or some church member that you've known, you may look pretty good. But have you ever compared yourself to God's standard of goodness, the Ten Commandments?



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Most of us have a tendency to compare ourselves with other people. If you compared yourself to me or some church member that you've known, you may look pretty good. But have you ever compared yourself to God's standard of goodness, the Ten Commandments?

The Ten Commandments are found in both the Old and New Testament Scriptures. (*Exodus 20; Romans 13:9-10; James 2:10-11*) Instead of comparing our lives to others, let's look at the Ten Commandments and see how we do.

1. YOU SHALL HAVE NO OTHER GODS BEFORE ME. (*Ex. 20:3*) Has God always been first in your life? Do you love Him more than your closest earthly relationships? Jesus said our love for God must be preeminent compared to all other relationships. (*Luke 14:26*) What about it, have you broken the first commandment?

2. YOU SHALL NOT MAKE YOURSELVES ANY IDOL. (*Ex. 20:4*) This involves an idol made with hands or with our minds. Anything that we exalt before God is an idol in our lives. Any false representation of a god of our own making is an idol. Many people's idea of God is that He doesn't mind a lie, or even if we steal as long as it's something insignificant. If it is not the God of the Bible it is a graven image of man's own "making!" I'm not judging you - I'm just asking, have you broken the second commandment?

3. YOU SHALL NOT TAKE THE NAME OF THE LORD YOUR GOD IN VAIN. (*Ex. 20:7*) Have you ever used the Name of Jesus Christ as a "4-letter word"? Hitler's name wasn't despised enough to be used as a curse word. Are you guilty or innocent of breaking the third commandment?

4. REMEMBER THE SABBATH DAY, TO KEEP IT HOLY. (*Ex. 20:8*) Do you set aside time or a day to honor and worship the Lord?

5. HONOR YOUR FATHER AND YOUR MOTHER. (*Ex. 20:12*) This is the first of God's Ten Commandments that ends with the promise of long life on this earth and days full of blessings. What about the sins of your youth? Did you always honor your father and mother? Have you forgotten?

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6. YOU SHALL NOT MURDER. (*Ex. 20:13*) Jesus said that anger is the real heart of this commandment. (*Matthew 5:22*) When we are angry with another we are saying, "You are a problem to me. If you were not here I wouldn't have this problem." Jesus says this is murder in your heart. What about it, who has not been guilty of breaking the sixth commandment?

7. YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY. (*Ex.20:14*) Jesus interpreted this commandment to mean that looking upon a woman with the view of lusting after her is the breaking the seventh commandment. (*Matthew 5:27-28*) Have you ever admired a beautiful woman to the point of lusting with your thoughts?

8. YOU SHALL NOT STEAL. (*Exodus 20:15*) Have you ever taken something that belonged to someone else, someone's wife or a possession, something from the office, or anything irrespective of its value.

9. YOU MUST NOT LIE. (*Ex. 20:16*) How many lies does it take to make a liar? Have you always told the truth?

10. YOU SHALL NOT COVET. (*Ex. 20:17*) "Covet" is the desire to have what belongs to someone else. Your neighbor's house, wife, possessions or anything you desire to have for you own personal happiness.

The only problem with trying to be good enough to go to heaven is the fact that not only have we broken the Ten Commandments, there are over 613 commandments in the Old Testament and hundreds in the New Testament. *James 2:10* in the New Testament says that whoever keeps the whole law yet messes up on just one point is guilty of breaking the law. No one will ever be good enough to go to heaven by keeping God's laws; for His law only reveals our sin. (*Romans 3:19-20*)

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