

Comfortable LIES or **Uncomfortable TRUTH?**

- The **Lie** of “Faith Only Saves”
- The **Lie** of “Good Moral People Will Be Saved”
- The **Lie** of “Many Ways to Heaven”
- The **Lie** of “We Can Be Saved Like the Thief on the Cross”
- The **Lie** of “No Hell and Eternal Security”

Have you ever noticed, how **Easy** it is, to believe something, if it **makes us feel good**?
That's the danger, of a "**comfortable lie**."

It **Soothes** the conscience, it **Asks Nothing** hard of us, and it **Allows us to Stay**, just as we are.

But truth—real truth from God—often makes us uncomfortable.
Truth shines into the dark corners of our heart. **Truth calls for change.**

From John chapter 6, Jesus said things that caused many to walk away:

- The Bible says, "**From that time, many of His disciples went back, and walked no more, with Him.**" ([Jn.6:66](#)).

Why? Because the Truth hurt.

God willing, this morning, we are going to look at some of the most common

- "comfortable lies" that some will insist, holding on to,
- and we will compare them with the "uncomfortable truths" of God's Word, that many reject.

And as we do, we will each have to decide:

- Do we want the comfort of a lie, or the salvation of the truth?
- The question is not whether truth is comfortable, but whether it will save. **Which will we choose?**

First, let's test a very popular claim...

I. **The Lie of "Faith Only Saves"**

Many claim that, belief alone secures salvation. But the Bible consistently shows that,

A. Faith Must Be Active and Obedient

James plainly denies "faith only."

- "**Ye see then, how that by works, a man is justified, and NOT by faith only.**" ([Jas.2:24](#))
- "**Even so Faith, if it hath not works, is Dead, being alone.**" ([Jas.2:17](#)).

At Pentecost, faith was not enough.

- The Bible says, "**Now when they HEARD this, they were PRICKED in their heart...**
Then Peter said unto them, Repent, AND be baptized every one of you in the Name (or authority) **of Jesus Christ, for the Remission of sins.**" ([Acts 2:37-38](#))

IF, "faith only saves", why did Peter command them to **Do More**?

The Bible says, that Salvation is granted, to the obedient.

The Hebrew writer, said of Jesus,

- "**being made perfect, He became the Author of eternal salvation, unto all them, that OBEY Him.**" ([Heb.5:9](#))

True faith, always Obey.

Anything less, is not biblical faith.

Now someone may ask,

- “But preacher, doesn’t the Bible say we are saved by grace and not by works?”

Yes, it does. But, let’s see how...

B. Grace and Obedience Work Together

Salvation is God’s gift—it cannot be earned.

- “**For by Grace, are ye Saved through Faith; ...Not of works**” (read [Eph.2:8-9](#))

But Grace instructs, for our obedient response.

- On Pentecost, Peter urged, “**Save yourselves, from this untoward generation.**” ([Acts 2:40](#)).
—True, they could not earn salvation, but they had to obey the gospel ([Acts 2:38](#)), to receive it.

In Antioch, Paul and Barnabas said:

- “**Seeing ye put it (the gospel) from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life...**” ([Acts 13:46](#)).
—By rejecting the gospel message, they resisted God’s grace.
- Paul also warned, “**...that ye receive not, the grace of God in vain.**” ([2Cor. 6:1](#)).
—Grace can be offered—and wasted—if not obeyed now.

Even in obedience, we remain dependent on God’s mercy.

- “**...when ye shall have DONE all those things, which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have DONE that which was our duty to do.**” ([Lk.17:10](#))

and Paul reminds us, that freedom from sin comes, when faith obeys from the heart.

- “**God be thanked, that ye WERE the servants of sin, but ye have OBEYED from the heart that form of doctrine, which was Delivered you (that is, the gospel). Being then Made Free from sin, ye Became the Servants of righteousness.**” ([Rom.6:17-18](#))

God’s grace, teaches us how to live ([Titus 2:11–12](#))—not in sin, but in holiness, as His servants.

Grace does not cancel obedience; it empowers it.

God gives the gift—we must humbly receive it, by ongoing obedient faith.

Next, we face a comforting idea, which many sincerely hold...

II. The Lie of “Good Moral People Will Be Saved”

Many believe, “If I’m a good person, surely God will save me.”

A. Consider the Example of Cornelius

He was a good man by any standard. Generous, prayerful, respected.

If anyone could be saved by goodness, it would have been Cornelius — yet he was still lost, without the gospel.

- The Bible says, “**There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius... a Devout man, and one that Feared God with all his house, which Gave much alms to the people, and Prayed to God alway.**” ([Acts 10:1-2](#))
— but, Cornelius still needed the gospel, to be saved.

Speaking to Cornelius, the Bible informs us that Peter...

- “**...shall Tell thee Words (the gospel), whereby thou, and all thy house, shall be SAVED.**” ([Acts 11:14](#))

Goodness, without the gospel, is not enough.

Even moral people, must hear and obey the gospel.

Human goodness, cannot replace the need, for Jesus Christ.

B. Salvation is in Christ Alone

Grace through Christ—not morality—saves.

- “But we believe, that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, we shall be saved, even as they.” ([Acts 15:11](#))

Cornelius was commanded to obey the Lord in baptism.

- “And he commanded them, to be **Baptized**, in the Name (or authority) of the Lord.” ([Acts 10:48](#))

No one is good enough, apart from Christ.

- “For **ALL** have sinned, and **Come SHORT** of the glory of God.” ([Rom.3:23](#))

If morality alone saves, why did God command Cornelius, to be baptized, in the name of the Lord?

Even the most moral man, falls short without Christ—All need, God’s saving grace.

Being good is not enough—All need, the blood of Jesus.

Another comfortable lie, is that all religions, lead to God.

III. The Lie of “Many Ways to Heaven”

The world praises “many paths,” but...

A. Jesus is the Only Way

Jesus is not one way—He is **the way**.

- He said, “I am the **Way**, the **Truth**, and the **Life**: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me.” ([Jn.14:6](#))

Man cannot invent, his own way to heaven.

- Jeremiah said long ago, “O LORD, I know that the **way of man** is not in himself: **it is Not in man** that walketh, to direct his steps.” ([Jer.10:23](#))

Isn’t it interesting, how man likes to create or invent his own religion?

Yet God says, salvation comes only through Christ.

IF there is one way, then there is also

B. The One Church of Christ

Jesus promised one church—not many.

- He said, “...I will build **MY church**; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” ([Matt.16:18](#))
- Scripture says there is “one body” ([Eph 4:4](#)), and that the body, is the church ([Eph.1:22–23](#)).

The lie of “many ways” may be comforting.

The uncomfortable truth, is that there is only “one way to heaven”

—through Jesus Christ and His one body—the church.

- “**Neither** is there salvation, in **Any Other**: for there is None other name under heaven, given among men, whereby we must be saved.” ([Acts 4:12](#))

If salvation is only in His name OR authority, then it must also be, only in His body, the church.

If there is one ark that saved Noah’s family, how many arks do we need?

Just one. In the same way, salvation is in Christ’s ONE body—the church.

Having seen that many roads invented by man, cannot save,
let us now examine another common claim...

IV. The Lie of “We Can Be Saved Like the Thief on the Cross”

Many believe and teach, “I want to be saved like the thief on the cross.”

But this idea ignores the differences, between the thief’s situation, and ours under the New Covenant.

To answer this, we must first remember the authority Jesus had, during His earthly ministry.

A. Jesus Had Authority to Forgive Sins on Earth

Jesus forgave sins directly, during His earthly ministry.

- “But that ye may know, that the Son of man, hath power on earth to forgive sins...” ([Matt.9:6](#)).

When the thief cried out in faith, Jesus said,

- “Today shalt thou be with Me in paradise.” ([Lk.23:43](#)).

The thief was forgiven before Jesus died, while He still exercised that earthly authority.

But after His death, things changed.

B. The New Covenant Began After the Death of Jesus

The thief died before the gospel of Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection was preached.

- “For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is of force after men are dead...” ([Heb.9:16–17](#)).

The Bible also says,

- “But now hath He obtained a **More EXCELLENT** ministry, by how much also He is the mediator of a **BETTER** covenant, which was established upon **BETTER** promises. For IF that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second.” ([Heb.8:6–7](#)).

That is why the New Covenant, established by Christ, is better—with better promises.

And it is under this new covenant, not the old, that we must be saved today.

C. Today, Salvation Is by Obeying the Gospel

After the cross, Jesus commanded:

- “He that believeth **AND** is baptized shall be **SAVED**; but he that believeth not, shall be damned.” ([Mk.16:16](#)).

On Pentecost, Peter preached:

- “Repent (for those who already believe), **AND** be baptized every one of you, in the Name of (or authority of) Jesus Christ, for the **REMISSION** of sins...” ([Acts 2:38](#)).

No apostle ever told sinners after the cross, “Be saved like the thief.”

They always preached Christ’s death, burial and resurrection, and commanded repentance and baptism.

The thief was saved **Before** the New Covenant was in effect, by the direct authority of Jesus.

Today, we are saved by obeying the gospel of Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection ([1Cor.15:1-4](#)).

The comfortable LIE, is that we can be saved like the thief on the cross.

The uncomfortable TRUTH, is that we must obey the gospel of Christ to be saved today.

Finally, two soothing claims, that Scripture firmly denies...

V. The Lie of “No Hell and Eternal Security”

Many deny hell, but Jesus warned of it, repeatedly.

A. Hell is Real

Jesus contrasted the road to life, with the road to destruction.

- “Enter ye in at the strait gate: for **Wide** is the gate, and **Broad** is the way, that leadeth to **Destruction**, and **Many** there be which go in thereat:” (read [Matt.7:13-14](#))

Hell is real, eternal, and terrifying. From the parable of the sheep and the goats, Jesus said...

- “**Depart** from Me, ye cursed, into **Everlasting Fire**, prepared for, the devil and his angels.” ([Matt.25:41](#))

Those who reject the gospel, face eternal punishment.

- “...the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, ⁸ in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that **Know NOT** God, and that **Obey NOT** the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: ⁹ who shall be punished, with **Everlasting Destruction**...” ([2Thess.1:7-9](#); read also [Rom.2:6-11](#))

Hell is real. Ignoring it, does not erase, its certainty.

Another lie says “once saved, always saved.” But Scripture warns otherwise.

B. Christians Can Fall Away

Believers have eternal life, by promise & hope ([1Jn.2:25](#); [Tit.1:2](#));

...but not **IF** we “go away”. We must continue to **FOLLOW** His Word, to **RECEIVE** the Promise.

- Jesus said, “Verily, verily, I say unto you, **He that believeth ON Me, hath Everlasting LIFE.**” ([Jn.6:47](#))
- “From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him. ⁶⁷ Then said Jesus unto the twelve, **Will ye also go away?** ⁶⁸ Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? **Thou hast the Words of Eternal LIFE.** ⁶⁹ And we believe and are sure, that Thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.” ([Jn.6:66-69](#))

One must Follow the Word of God ([Jn.8:31](#)), to be recipients of Eternal LIFE ([Rev.2:10](#)).

The Biblical records says, that there were some who fell from grace.

- “Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law (that is the Law of Moses); **ye are Fallen from Grace.**” ([Gal.5:4](#))

Believers **CAN** become **UN**believers & be **LOST**. It is this very reason, that the Hebrew writer said,

- “Take **HEED**, brethren, lest there be in any of you, **an evil heart of UNbelief, in DEPARTING from the living God.**” (read [Heb.3:12-13](#); and [1Cor.10:12](#))
- “Be thou **faithful unto death**, and I will give thee a **crown of life.**” ([Rev.2:10](#))

The Bible says, that the “latter end” of returning to sin, is worse.

- “For **IF** after they have **ESCAPED** the pollutions of the **WORLD** (that is, sin) through the **KNOWLEDGE** of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ (which is the gospel), they are again **ENTANGLED** therein, and **OVERCOME** (by pollutions of the world, or sin), the latter end is **WORSE** with them, than the beginning.” ([2Pet.2:20](#))

If “once saved, always saved” were true,

why would the Bible warn so strongly, about going away, falling away or departing?

The uncomfortable truth, is that hell is real, and salvation can be lost, **IF** we turn away from God.

VI. Closing Thoughts

We have uncovered, four “comfortable LIES”, and their “uncomfortable TRUTH’s”:

1. Faith only, is a **LIE** — salvation requires obedient faith.
2. Morality alone, **canNOT save** — only Christ can.
3. Many paths, is **FALSE** — Jesus is the only way.
4. No hell and eternal security, are **LIES** — hell is real, and we must remain faithful.

Paul asked,

- “Do I **Seek** to, please men?
for **IF**, I yet **Pleased men**, I should **NOT be** the servant of Christ” ([Gal.1:10](#)).

Many want to please their family, More than God, But Jesus said,

- “He that **Loveth** father or mother, **More than Me**, is **NOT worthy of Me**:
and he that **Loveth** son or daughter, **More than Me**, is **NOT worthy of Me.**” ([Matt.10:37](#))

Will we cling to comforting **LIES**, that lead to destruction,
or embrace the **TRUTH** that saves, even if, it is uncomfortable?

These truths may be hard for some...

But we speak these truths in love ([Eph 4:15](#)), not to win an argument, but to win souls.

From [Titus 1:10–11](#),

Paul instructs Titus, that false teachers must be silenced, because they corrupt entire households:

“For there are many unruly and vain Talkers and Deceivers... whose mouths must be STOPPED,
who **Subvert** (or ruin) whole houses, teaching things which they ought NOT...”

Just as Paul desired the mouths of falsehood to be stopped, we should pray, that if it be God’s will,
Evil words and works, that corrupt both our nation and the church, might be **STOPPED**;
...that **Truth** may prevail, and the **Peace** of Christ, would **Rule Over**, the dark chaos of men.

Let us never forget that **Truth** silences lies—**Not** by violence, **But** by the power of God’s Word ([Rom.1:16](#)).

So, the question for us is: will we respond to God’s truth today, or will we hold on, to a comfortable lie?

Jesus said,

- “**Except** a man be **Born of water** (that is, baptism—Rom.6:3-4)
and **of the Spirit** (that is, renewal by the Word of God—1Pet.1:23),
he **canNot Enter** into the kingdom of God (that is, the church—Col.1:13,18).” ([Jn.3:5](#))

Like those on Pentecost, let us be pricked in our hearts,

- “**Repent, AND be baptized** every one of you,
in the Name of Jesus Christ, for the **REMISSION of sins**” ([Acts 2:38](#)).

Then, let us **Continue Faithfully** until the end ([Matt.10:22b](#)),

knowing that eternal comfort with Christ, is worth every uncomfortable truth, we accept today.

Don’t delay, come now...

While together, we stand and sing.