
Subject: Voting, Apple Falafel, and Yugo
Posted by [msgtpain](#) on Fri, 04 Feb 2005 01:55:22 GMT
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j_ball430John 14:6Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

Yes, all you have to do is believe sincerely that Jesus is the Son of God, was sent here to die for our sins, rose from the dead, and ascended into Heaven again. That's all I'm arguing. I personally believe that one cannot lose their salvation, but I'm not claiming that as truth.

Lets think here for a minute.. Exactly what does it mean to believe sincerely that Jesus is the Son of God, was sent here to die for our sins, rose from the dead, and ascended into Heaven again.? If you sincerely believe it, don't you think that you would follow all his other teachings regarding the way he has instructed you to live your life? If you don't, if you just go about your merry way, and live the life that you want to live, have you really sincerely bought in to Jesus?

I'm not going to get in to a semantics debate about why my beliefs are better than yours, or vice versa, I'm just simply pointing out that what you are saying, is actually contradicting even your own words.. Luther was a very humble man, he lived as a monk and was probably closer to "perfect" than anyone I have ever met, yet he still felt torn in the fact that no matter what he did, or how he lived his life, he was never "sin-free".. But he came to the realization that, that isn't what God was asking for, he didn't require him to be perfect before he died, Jesus took care of that.. all Luther had to do was attempt to be like Jesus, as best he could, and that's all that Jesus required of him. When Luther understood this, he felt "born again"..

The Catholics of that era took it to one extreme, buying indulgences as repayment of their sins, sometimes even before they committed them. They felt that they could buy their way in to heaven through money or works... Now days, too many people believe the exact opposite, that all you have to do is profess your belief in Jesus, then you're free to walk away and act as you please.. What James taught, to build upon what those before him, such as John wrote; is that there is a combination of the two, that is required. If you confess your love to Jesus on Sunday, then spit on your neighbor on Monday, you're pretty much showing that what you did on Sunday had no true meaning. It's what's in your heart that matters, and if your heart is true, you will want to be out doing the works, and living the life that Jesus has asked you to. His suffering on earth isn't to be taken lightly, it wasn't a pass-go and collect \$200 dollars card.

You can believe as you wish, I'm not going to change that; but at least consider what you're professing, God doesn't care how you really act, as long as you believe he died on a cross.. if that were true, there wouldn't be much need for repentance now would there? The goal in life for a Christian is to live a life closer to God, not just acknowledge he exists; there aren't too many ways to do that except for works.
