

A Cleaner Way to Hell

by Thomas Brooks

Relying on our good works and trusting in our own righteousness can lead to a false sense of security and ultimately ruin our souls, but taking sanctuary in the righteousness of Jesus Christ and the free grace of God can save us.

Scripture: Isaiah 64:6, Ephesians 2:8

Topics: "Righteousness", "Grace"

Description

Thomas Brooks emphasizes the danger of relying on our good works for salvation, warning that while duties are important, they can lead to pride and self-reliance. He cites the wisdom of Luther, urging believers to be cautious not only of their sins but also of their good deeds, which can become a false source of security. Brooks argues that trusting in one's own righteousness is as perilous as open wickedness, leading to spiritual ruin. He calls for a complete renunciation of self-righteousness and a reliance solely on the righteousness of Jesus Christ and the grace of God.

Transcript

It was the saying of a precious saint--that he was more afraid of his duties than of his sins; for his duties often made him proud--but his sins always made him humble.

It was good counsel Luther gave, "We must take heed not only of our sins--but of our good works."

Duties can never have too much diligence used about them--nor too little confidence placed in them. They are good helps--but bad saviors. It is necessary we do them --but it is dangerous to rely upon them. If the devil cannot dissuade us from performing pious duties--then his next

work will be to persuade us to rely upon them, to make saviors of them; because this will as certainly ruin our souls, as if we had wholly neglected them.

Resting in your own righteousness, will as certainly and eternally undo you--as the greatest and foulest atrocities!

Open wickedness slays her thousands--but a secret resting upon duties, slays her ten thousands!

Open profaneness is the broad dirty way which leads to hell; but trusting in pious duties is as sure a way, though a cleaner way to hell. Ungodly people and formal professors shall meet at last in the same hell.

Now, let all these things work you to renounce your own righteousness--and to take sanctuary alone in the pure, perfect, and most glorious righteousness of Jesus Christ, and in the free grace of God.

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/thomas-brooks/a-cleaner-way-to-hell/>

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