

Sincerity and Salvation

Many people have the idea that God will not condemn a person who means well. The old adage, “It doesn’t matter what you believe, as long as you’re sincere” is an assumption on which we should not rest the fate of our souls.

Sincerity is important, but it can deceive us. Saul, in his sincerity, “persecuted the church beyond measure and tried to destroy it” (Gal 1:13; Acts 23:1). No matter how sincere his intentions, Saul was not pleasing God. No degree of sincerity can change wrong into right. The sincerity of a Bible teacher will not change into truth the error he may teach. Jesus admonished His followers to “take heed what you hear” (Mark 4:24).

On the judgment day, many sincere people will call out to Jesus as their “Lord”, and they will speak of their accomplishments in His name. But Jesus said that He will send them away from His presence because they did *their will* not His Father’s will (Matt 7:21-23).

Saul, to change his relationship to God, had to do the Father’s will. Sincere Saul had to believe that Jesus is Lord and Christ (Acts 9:3-6). Sincere Saul had to repent of his sins (9:7-11), and he had to be baptized to wash away those sins in the blood of Christ; doing the Father’s will was tantamount to “calling on the name of the Lord” (22:16). Those people whose sincerity will aid in their salvation are those who will not object to or question the will of the Father. Neither will they remain ignorant of His commands. It does matter what one believes and practices.

Green Meadow church of Christ
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Sunday: 9:30; 10:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.