

PARENT QUESTION

TOUGH QUESTIONS – WEEK 8

IS IT WRONG TO ASK JESUS INTO YOUR HEART RIGHT BEFORE YOU DIE?

This question is a bit related to the tough question covered during the lesson time: How can a person lose their salvation? We will cover this topic, and share with youth that, while true followers of Christ cannot lose their salvation, some people are not true followers of Christ to begin with (though they may claim to be and even believe that they are). The question they will ask you is this: Is it wrong to ask Jesus into your heart right before you die? Below are some notes on this question, first to answer it directly and second to take the question a step further.

Probably the best example in the Bible of someone coming to Christ is the thief that was crucified next to Jesus. His story can be found in Luke 23:39-43. When he put his trust in Christ, Jesus promised that the thief would be with Him in paradise. He did *not* say, “You waited too long – you should have gotten saved ages ago!” This illustrates the truth that we see in 2 Peter 3:9, where it says God does not want anyone to perish; He wants everyone to have eternal life. A person at the end of his or her life is still someone that God wants to see saved.

A driving force that may have been behind this question is that of another question which asks, “Is it wrong for people to live their lives doing whatever they want and wait until they are near death to repent and be saved?” Some people want to, in a sense, get the sin out of their systems so that they can “have their fun” before converting. Here are some thoughts on this idea:

- It is possible – this can certainly happen. A person can know the truth but fail to acknowledge it until life is almost over.
- It is dangerous – the idea that someone can wait to convert out of selfish, sinful ambitions has some serious complications.
 - People may die before they are ready to repent and be saved.
 - It reveals a flaw in thinking, because salvation seems to be reduced to a simple prayer rather than a lifestyle.
- It implies that the Christian life is not fun, so a person might be better off living sinfully first. This is extremely far from the truth – sin is the absence of God’s goodness, and it leaves people empty and unfulfilled. Jesus offers true fulfillment! See John 10:10.

Ultimately we want to see youth understand that the only way to live a life of meaning is by trusting in Jesus for salvation and living for Him.