

GOODY TWO SHOES





The Tale of

GOODY TWO-SHOES



INTRODUCTION THE GREAT CALAMITY

Goody Two-Shoes was one of the most popular and influential children's books of the eighteenth century. Published in 1765, in London England, it was the classic “rags to riches” story of an orphan girl named Margery Meanwell. Margery was so poor she only had one shoe. She became so delighted when a rich relative of the local clergyman gave her a pair of shoes, she ran and cried out to his wife, “Two Shoes, Ma’am, see two shoes!” These words she repeated to everyone she met, and thus got the name “Goody Two-Shoes.”

By all accounts, Goody Two-Shoes was a good person. Everyone thought highly of her and admired her kind heart. She was good to the poor, and to children, and a friend to all who were in distress. Because of this, Goody excelled in life and married a wealthy widower. The story followed the classic Cinderella theme of moral virtue finally being rewarded.

This is how the book ends:

“Her life was a great blessing and her death the greatest calamity that ever took place in the neighborhood where she lived, and was known as GOODY TWO-SHOES.

Actually, the “greatest calamity” in Goody Two-Shoes is this:

As good as Goody was...

Goody Two-Shoes didn't go to heaven



PART TWO
HOW GOOD IS GOOD?



I am a good person.

At least that's how most of us think of ourselves:

"I was raised with good morals."

"I'm better than others I know."

"I don't break the law."

"I might have done something wrong once or twice, but that was a long time ago."

Today we think "good people" go to heaven.

But who gets to decide who is good and who is not?

We think we are good compared to criminals on the evening news. Goody Two Shoes once overheard thieves plotting to rob Squire Trueman and told on them so they would be caught. But is good just being better than bad?

WHAT IF we compare ourselves to God rather than other people? Do we measure up to his standard?

God raises the bar on what it means to be good. His standard is 100% perfection.

Unless you are perfect you will not go to heaven when you die.



*"For all have sinned and fall short
of the glory of God,"
~Romans 3:23*



“For the wages of sin is death,” ~Romans 6:23

PART THREE
DEATH
—∞—

100 & 54

What do these numbers represent?

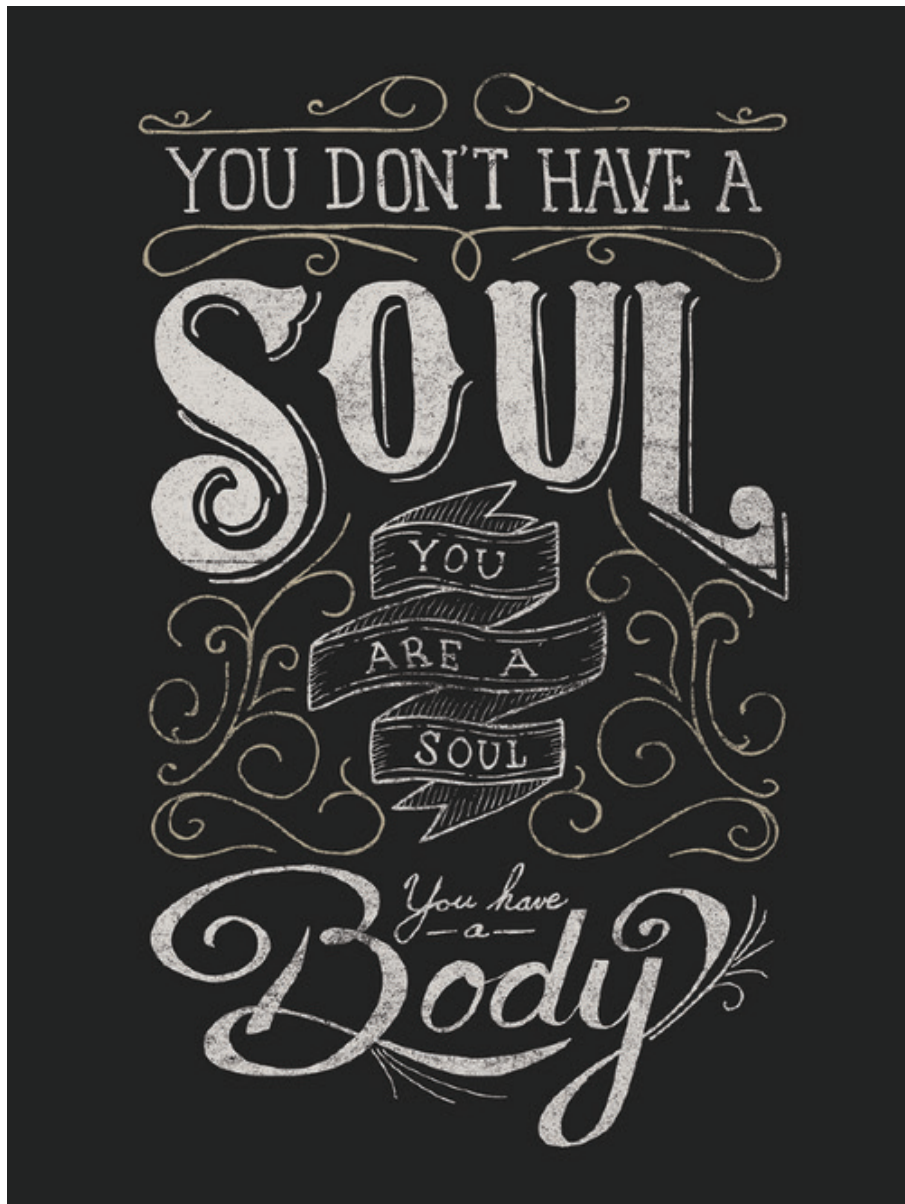
100 – One hundred represents absolute **certainty**. There is a 100% chance if you live long enough you will die. It doesn't matter how good of a life you live, even if you are Goody Two Shoes, you will still die.

54 – Fifty four represents our current **confusion**. A recent poll concluded 54% of Americans “don't spend much or any time thinking about their death.”

If all of us are headed towards death, why are only half of us thinking about it?

Let's make sure you are ready...

So...What will happen when YOU die?



*“And just as it is appointed for man to die once,
And after that comes judgment,”
~Hebrews 9:27*

PART FOUR SO WHO DOES GO TO HEAVEN?



When we die some say, “That’s it.” Life just ends. But that’s only half true. Our body will be dead but our soul will live on.

When you die, your soul will go to **1** of **2** places:

1. Souls who have a perfect record go into the presence of God. This is what we commonly refer to as heaven.

OR

2. Souls who have an imperfect record go to punishment apart from God. This is known as hell.

If this seems unfair from our perspective, we must remember God’s standard is perfection.

And when God judges us, he is going to hold us to his standard, not ours.

If God allowed you into heaven, then heaven would be less than perfect.

PART FIVE
HOW BAD IS BAD?



“For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.”

~James 2:10

Perhaps you are thinking, **“BUT NOBODY’S PERFECT!”**

Exactly, that is the point.

Sin is any failure to keep God’s law.

There are what we might consider “big” sins that break the law like murder or robbery.

And there are what we might consider “little” sins like a lie or disrespecting our parents.

But the point is we have all sinned.

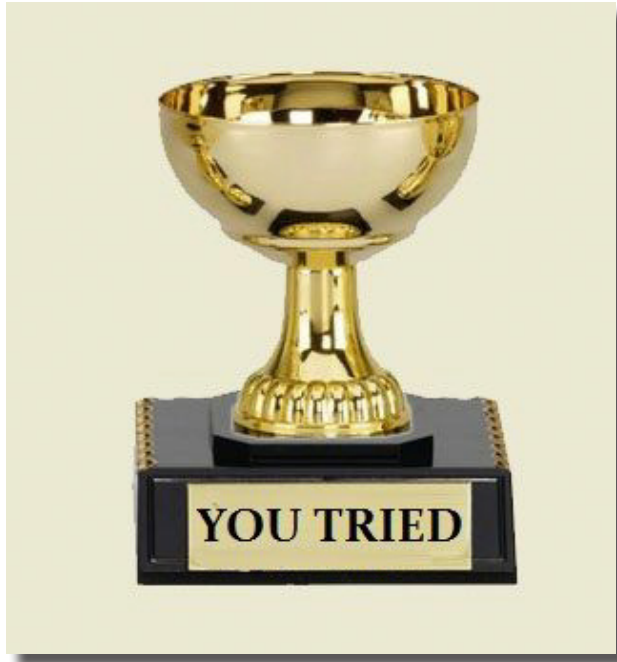
We all have an imperfect record before a perfect God.

Every sin, (whether it is something we did, something we said or even something we thought) goes on our record in permanent ink.

God is going to judge us according to what we have done.

And it only takes one sin to keep you out of heaven.

PART SIX
TRYING HARDER IS NOT ENOUGH



*“For by grace you have been saved through faith.
And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,
Not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”
~ Ephesians 2:8-9*

We live in a world of participation trophies.

As long as you try that is good enough.

Maybe you think God will grade us on a curve and if you give a good enough effort he will let you pass.

But the Bible goes out of its way to tell us “trying harder” or “doing better” do not earn us a ticket to heaven.

Doing good works doesn’t work!

We can’t just go to traffic school and remove our ticket of sin from our record. Our imperfect record is like a stain on our soul. We can scrub this stain all we want but our good works are like a dirty rag just spreading the stain around.

To get into heaven we have to have what God is looking for: *righteousness*.

And Jesus is the only one who has a perfect record.



PART SEVEN GETTING THE PERFECT RECORD



This is where we get to the gospel: the good news of Jesus.

Jesus is willing to trade his perfect record of righteousness with your imperfect record of sin!

There are three essential things you need to believe about Jesus:

#1. Jesus is God. He humbled himself as a man to live the perfect life we could not live.

#2. Jesus died for your sin. When he was crucified on the cross, Jesus paid the punishment for your sin.

#3. Jesus rose from the dead. He now offers you a new quality of life that lasts forever.

When you put your faith in this gospel of Jesus, not only are you forgiven for your sins but you are given his righteousness instead.

You will be able to stand before God not judged but justified.

It is not by us being good or doing good, but by the goodness of Jesus alone!

*“For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”
~ 2 Corinthians 5:21*

CONCLUSION
GOOD IS THE ENEMY OF GOD



We don't want your life to end like Goody Two Shoes.

We don't want you to think of yourself as a good person only to find out after you die you were wrong the entire time.

You see, Good is actually the enemy of God.

If you think you are good, you will trust in yourself not Jesus.

You won't come to him and confess your sin.

You won't come to him and put your faith in his righteousness.

How can Jesus save you if you are already good?

The good news of Jesus is only good to those who know they are not good.

So... Is that good news to you?



He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt:

*Two men went up into the temple to pray,
One a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.*

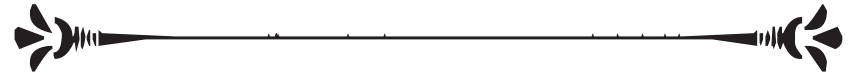
*The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus:
'God, I thank you that I am not like other men,
extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector.
I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.'*

*But the tax collector, standing far off,
would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast,
saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!'*

*I tell you, this man went down to his house justified,
rather than the other.*

*For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled,
But the one who humbles himself will be exalted.*

~ Luke 18:9-14





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