



## ***21. A Pile of Stones***

Many people, believe that salvation is based on achieving some final level of moral behavior ... like ace-ing the final is all that counts. They believe that if they're trying to improve, they'll reach some level of goodness where God will let them into Heaven. There are problems with that belief. The first is that this idea is man-made. It's like making up my own speed limits on the highway. But I'm not in charge.

And what about vertical sins? Most non-believers define being good as horizontal goodness to their peers while ignoring their vertical treatment of God. That's like children treating their siblings well ... while ignoring or rejecting their parents. A lifetime of ignoring or rejecting their Creator and the One who died on the Cross for their sins is not erased by being nice to other people.

Some might say, "I'm trying hard ... working on it ... getting better." But just one sin is enough to give us the fatal disease. James 2:10 states that, "*Whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one*

*point, he has become guilty of all.”* And Romans 6:23 states that, *“The wages of sin is death.”* With God, it’s a pass or fail deal ... just one sin, vertical or horizontal, is spiritually fatal. Our problem isn’t having committed just one sin ... it’s many sins. If you threw a small stone onto a pile every time you committed a sin, your pile would be pretty big by now. And if you are committing fewer and fewer sins each year, the only thing you have accomplished is that your pile of stones is getting bigger slower. You need Jesus to take away your pile of stones. You need to believe in Him.

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