**BE PREPARED TO ANSWER**

***Telling the Greatest Story Ever Told***

**Week 7 – There Are No Moral ABsolutes**

**March 14, 2021**

**INTRODUCTION**

* What is a moral? What is morality?

**I. Matthew 2:1-18 Revisited**

* Magi from the East seek the newly born King of the Jews
* Herod gets word of it and “follows the treasury map of prophecy to a whole in the wall called Behtlehem. There he gladly wipes out a couple dozen baby boys in the gruesome hops of killing this one” [Prof. Paustain].
* Remember that Herod planed a mass murder to take place at the time of his death so that someone, somewhere would be crying.
* Joseph snaps his eyes open having a dream. Mary, Get up! Get Jesus! We’ve got to get our of here! He wants to kill Jesus!
* The holy family flees to Egypt leaving the sound of weeping behind them.
* This doesn’t usually make the Christmas pageants, but it should because it teaches a wonderful truth.
* Into such a world and for such a world, Christ was born to live, then suffer and die for those who make the world such.
* **Agree/Disagree**: Without the restraining morality and justice that depend upon God, there is no good reason for people not to act on the ugliest impulses of their hearts.

**2. Let’s Take a Hard Look at Humankind**

* Evil – Where is it to be found? Where does it come from? Who perpetuates it?
* Is evil something culture derives and therefore can change at a whim or is it something more?
* How can we know the difference between good and evil, right and wrong?
* But I thought that God placed his law upon the hearts and in the consciences of all people? What went wrong?
* Can it be that there is nothing objective behind our human sense of right and wrong?
* Man’s inner voice that cries out, “You should not have done, said, thought that. You should have…”
* You should have… proves the inner self knows what is right and wrong
* If a person removes God from the equation, then right and wrong are only thoughts in one’s own head
* Why do we lock up criminals? Do we do it only based on our preference? The innate concept of morality in people.
* What did God see and observe about people at the time of the flood? Has this changed? What can we do?

**3. The Only Compelling Reason to Do Good**

* In the law God demands a perfect life based on his declaration of what is right and wrong; his morality if you will.
* The Savior did good always, and completely, for all people
* Why is the gospel absolute?
* God can never change. Therefore…
* “In a society determined to make its own way, to cut itself loose and somehow to make life makes sense apart from our Father, there is still the ache in the middle of the night. For if there were no absolute morality, then neither would there be absolute Love” [Paustian].
* Into such a world and for such a world, Christ was born to live, then suffer and die for those who make the world such.

**CONCLUSION**:

***NEXT WEEK: I can believe what I want as long as I’m sincere!***