

Essay from the bold pastor

#146 - Justin Bieber's Baptism -

We have all heard about Justin Bieber's graffiti incident at the hotel he was staying at in Australia, his past racial discrimination remarks, his drunk driving drag race in city streets, and so on. So, the news that this reckless pop star has been baptized shocked the world in June. Yet, with the recent report of him throwing eggs at his neighbor's house revealed that this 20 year-old has not changed.

Meanwhile, he has said "You shouldn't have sex until you're in love," showing his conservative view on sex. Also, when the Tohoku Earthquake occurred on March 11, 2011 he visited Tokyo only two months after and comforted the affected children while many musicians were reluctant to do so from the fear of radiation. Maybe he's a compassionate man. More surprisingly, the world has heard him say "I'm a Christian. I believe in God and that Jesus died on the cross because of our sins. If it weren't for him, I wouldn't be here." Is he a good person or what?

Either way, his reckless actions make me think about the meaning of the following verse in the Bible once again.

If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Romans 10:9

He is a living proof that not all Christians are "good people." They should try to be, of course, and it's possible to become good with the help of the Holy Spirit given by Jesus Christ. However, the most important thing is to believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross for our sins as Bieber mentioned. By doing so, he was "saved" as the Bible says. You may think that he doesn't need salvation because he is young, rich, and famous. However, the salvation I'm referring to is beyond things like help and comfort. It particularly means the salvation from "death" and salvation from judgement in the afterlife and the hell. That's right. Even a punk like Justin Bieber will receive an eternal life that takes him to the heaven. What a sweet deal is that! This deal is called "Gospel" and is given by the blessing of Jesus Christ to people regardless of their characters or actions.

However, being baptized to be clear of sins doesn't make everything OK. Christians will keep committing sins, and that's inevitable. As in the case of Bieber, good and evil competes against each other every day. We make reckless mistakes. Yet, those who believe that Jesus Christ is the Savior will never lose the salvation given by God's blessings. All we can do is to appreciate God and try to be better each day even if we cause troubles to others. I'm genuinely grateful for God's love that allows me to be a Christian.

7-27-2014

