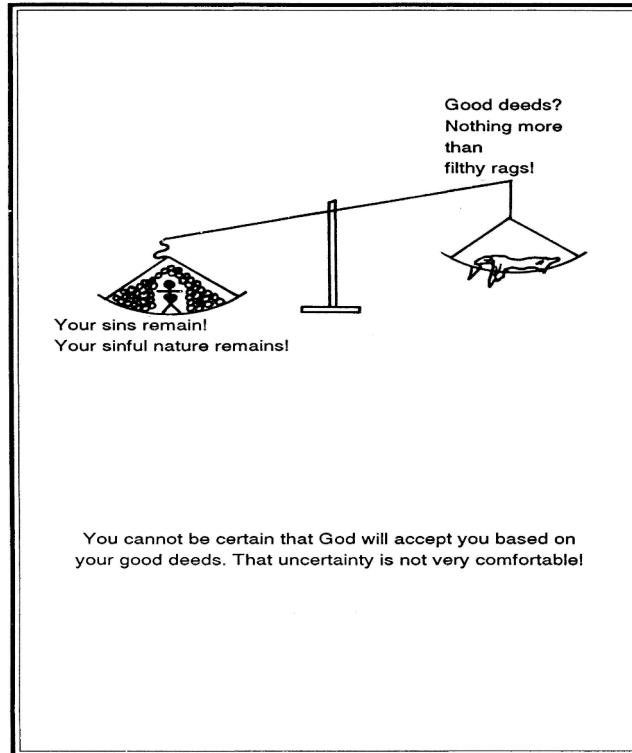


4. Good Deeds Cannot Save



Much as we do not like to talk about death, it remains a fact. One day you will die. Your soul will separate from your body. Your body will decay in the earth, while your soul will be sent to hell.

Heaven is a pure and holy place. God lives there. A sinful person cannot enter heaven. Otherwise, heaven's purity would be spoilt. God cannot accept a sinful person. Otherwise God would no longer be God.

Some people think that their souls are pure although their bodies are unclean. But that cannot be true. You are a living person now because your body is mysteriously united to your soul. When you sin, your whole person - body and soul - sins.

You may argue, "God will take into account my good deeds. I fast, I pray so many times a day, I give money to the poor,... Surely, God will weigh up my merits on the last day."

Tell me, can you be certain that:

- (i) These good deeds will outweigh your sins on the day you die?
- (ii) These good deeds will cleanse your sinful nature and make you perfect on the day you die?
- (iii) These good deeds will cause God to overlook your sinful actions and sinful nature?

Be honest. Can you be certain of all these? No, you cannot be certain. Can you be certain now that God will accept you on the last day? No, you cannot be certain.

That uncertainty is not very comfortable!