

Are You “Good Enough” to be saved?

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Introduction: Believing in Salvation by Grace.

- A. Can brethren today say, wholeheartedly, along with the apostles “*We believe that we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus*”? (**Acts 15:11**)
1. To believe in **salvation by grace** is to understand this important truth: *Salvation is a **favor** bestowed **freely** by God, a **gift** we did not deserve.*
 2. Yet, some think and talk this way about salvation: “Am I good enough? Have I done enough? Have I pleased God enough that I may enter Heaven?”
- B. Many have been deceived by “evil workers” who leave grace out of the gospel.
1. Today, there are “evil workers” who put “confidence in the flesh,” who teach a false “gospel of works” (**Phil. 3:2-3**; cf. **Gal. 1:6-7**).
 2. Just as “salvation by grace only” or “faith only” is falsehood, so is “salvation by works only” a false doctrine which can cause us to be lost.
 3. Without understanding grace, we will offer our good works to God in a *meritorious* manner (attempting to do “enough” to earn or deserve Heaven!).
- C. Believing in salvation by grace is essential to our freedom in Christ.
1. Without grace, the law of Christ will become a burden, much like the yoke of the Old Law which the Jews were unable to bear (**Acts 15:10**).
 2. We need the grace of Jesus today; our salvation depends on it! (**v. 11**)
- I. Does the New Testament Teach That We Must Be “Good enough” to be saved?**
- A. Many New Testament passages teach that we will be judged according to our deeds (e.g., **Mat 16:27**; **2 Cor 5:10**; **Gal 6:6-10**; **Col 3:23-25**; **Rev 2:23**; **20:12**; **22:12**).
- B. Therefore, must our good deeds outweigh our bad deeds on Judgment Day?
1. Islam teaches in the Koran that salvation depends on our good deeds outweighing our bad deeds at the Judgment (**SURAH 101:6-9**).
 2. Is this what the New Testament teaches? How good is “good enough”?
- II. The Gospel is Not a Meritorious Law System!**
- A. God’s justice is satisfied *only* by the blood of Jesus Christ.
1. God’s justice is based on the principle of “exact retribution” (**Ps 62:12**).
 2. Does **Romans 2:5-11** teach that we must be “good enough”?
 3. The greater context of the passage shows that one must keep the law (*any law, even Christ’s*) *perfectly* to be right with God (**Rom. 2:12-13ff.**).
 4. No one has been able to do this (**Rom. 3:10, 23**), save Jesus (**Heb 4:15**).
 5. Only through the blood of Jesus is God’s justice satisfied (**Rom 3:24-28**).
 6. We are “*justified by faith apart from works of [the] law*” – **any** law-keeping in attempt to merit salvation (**Rom. 3:28**; cf. **Phil. 3:9**).
- B. Justification by faith.
1. Abraham’s faith was accounted to him as righteousness (**Rom. 4:1-5**).
 2. Unable to boast by his good works, Abraham was justified by faith!
 3. Abraham did not attempt to earn salvation by his good works, but demonstrated a *living* faith which was credited to him as righteousness.
- Note:** This was not the first time Abraham was justified (**Gen 12:1-4/ Heb 11:8-10**).
4. Abraham’s faith in God was *not faith alone*, but an obedient faith that trusted in God (**James 2:20-24**).

- C. Justification by the *merit* of our good deeds is not possible (**Rm 4:4; 3:10, 23**).
 - 1. The person who “works,” who does *not* put his faith in God nor depend on His favor (grace), is one who labors to *earn* his reward (righteousness).
 - 2. In this approach to be righteous, one would have to obey the law *flawlessly!* There can be *no other* kind of worker that God *owes* a reward!
- D. The blood of Jesus is *the* source of our righteousness (**2 Cor. 5:21**).
 - 1. To whom does the Lord credit righteousness to his account? *To the person whose sins are forgiven!* (**Rom. 4:6-8**).
 - 2. Our sins or evil deeds will be charged to our account *unless* we go to Christ in faith for the forgiveness of our sins (**Acts 2:38; 1 Jn. 1:9**).

III. In What Sense will we be judged According to our Works?

- A. We will be held accountable for all the evil deeds we did not repent of and receive forgiveness for.
 - 1. Those who do not obey the gospel to have their sinned washed away (**Ac 2:38; 22:16**) will receive eternal condemnation (**2 Thes. 1:6-9**).
 - 2. We must repent and confess our sins to be forgiven (**Ac 8:22; 1 Jn 1:9**).
 - 3. We can be judged *and condemned* by the evil deeds we committed which we did not repent of and receive forgiveness (**Rev. 20:12**).
- B. Our deeds in life demonstrate our faithfulness or unfaithfulness to God.
 - 1. If we truly believe in the Lord, we will *walk by faith* (**2 Cor. 5:6-9**).
 - 2. *What kind of life we lived*, what kind of deeds we have done in the body will be evaluated and judged by God on Judgment Day (**v. 10**).
 - 3. Our good deeds have a *direct* correlation to Eternal Life! (**Rev 14:13**).
 - 4. We have a *responsibility* to “work out” our salvation (**Phil. 2:12-13**).

IV. Salvation Depends not on being “Good enough,” but on Our Faith in Christ.

- A. The attitude we bring in our service to God will justify or condemn us.
 - 1. If we suppose that our good works is what saves us and lose sight of our need for God’s mercy in Christ, *we will be condemned* (**Luke 18:9-12**).
 - 2. If we are humble, like the tax-gatherer, who understood that he was a sinner in need of God’s mercy, *we will be justified* (**Luke 18:13-14**).
- B. Good works must never be done in an attempt to be “good enough.”
 - 1. Like the Jews, we can sever ourselves from Christ and grace when we view obedience to His law as the sole means of our salvation (**Gal. 5:4**).
 - 2. Our faith in Christ is where righteousness comes from (**Gal. 5:5**).
- C. Works of obedience is a demonstration of our faith in God who saves us.
 - 1. To be saved, we must obey the Lord. Yet, it is *Christ*, not our works that is *the* source of our eternal salvation (**Heb. 5:9; cf. Tit. 3:4-7**).
 - 2. God does the saving not us, but if we want to be saved, we must demonstrate genuine faith by our works of obedience (**James 2:14-26**).
- D. Believe in Christ and the power of God’s grace.
 - 1. Salvation is a *free* gift of God which we could never hope to earn or deserve by our own efforts (**Eph. 2:4-10**).
 - 2. By God’s mercy and love for us, we can in Christ be “good enough.”

Conclusion: No One is “Good enough to be Saved” without the Grace of Our Savior. Let Us Never “Set Aside” the Grace of God in the Plan of Salvation (Gal. 2:20-21).