

REVELATION: Lesson 81
Salvation Not by Works

8 June 2020

The Bible clearly teaches that no one in any age or dispensation can be saved from sin and receive eternal life by doing good works. Today we will study what the Bible says about those who live their lives, hoping to get to heaven by keeping God's rules, regulations, and commandments.

GOD'S REVELATION:

When God reveals something to a person, that person shows faith when they act upon that revelation:

- Noah: believed God's revelation and took action; he built an ark.
- Abraham: believed God and left his homeland by faith.
- Joseph: believed God and organized a way to save mankind from famine.
- Hebrews chapter 11 is full of examples of people who believed God and did something in response.

Today God's revelation to all mankind is that Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again on the third day (1 Cor 15:3-4). If you believe that, the response is to repent of your sins, and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and receive Him as your Savior (Rom 10:9-10, 13, Acts 11:17-18, 20:21, 2 Cor 7:10).

SAVED: FIND OUT WHAT IT MEANS

"*Saved*" doesn't always refer to a person being born-again and receiving eternal life in Heaven.

- Often it refers to the sparing of a person's physical life (Psalm 3:7, 7:1, Mat 14:30).
 - Those who are "saved" as a result of "enduring to the end" (Mat 10:22, 24:13) refers to Tribulation saints whose physical lives are spared so that, at the end of the Tribulation they can enter alive into the Millennial Kingdom. It speaks of their flesh being saved from death (Mat 24:22).
 - Some teach that during the Tribulation people are "saved" by faith plus works. Contrariwise, the verses in Revelation that indicate that someone is exercising faith and works do not teach that those people were born-again and have eternal life (Rev 12:17, 14:12).
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DOES THE BIBLE TEACH THAT GOOD WORKS CAN SAVE YOU AND GIVE YOU ETERNAL LIFE?

If good works save a person, who decides what are good works? (Judges 17:6, Prov 12:15, 14:12, 16:2).

What is the Purpose of God's Law?

Deut 4:5-8 The Law was given to Israel to govern them as God's separated people. No other nation was given this Law. Salvation unto eternal life was not promised as a reward for obedience to the Law. It was given to Israel to teach them how to live in the Land that God Promised them (Deut 4:1). There is no eternal salvation apart from the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Gal 2:15-21 Obeying the Law cannot justify a person (declare righteous) so that they'll be good enough to go to Heaven. We must believe on Jesus Christ to be justified (vs 16).

- "No flesh" applies to people before Christ, after His resurrection, in the Tribulation, and in the Millennium. Justification is through faith in Jesus Christ for all flesh ever born.
- If righteousness could come by the Law, Christ died for nothing (vs 21). Jesus Christ is the only way to everlasting life (Jn 3:16) with the Father (John 14:6).
- You frustrate the grace of God when you ignore His grace and trust your own works.

Gal 3:10-13 If you're trusting good works, you're under the curse because you're required to keep all the Law, not just the parts you like.

No man (in any age past, present, or future) is justified by the law in the sight of God (vs 11). It doesn't matter what anybody else told you, God is the Judge. He said works won't get you in Heaven; faith in Christ's finished work will.

Jesus Christ took our place as a cursed sinner (vs 13) to redeem us from the curse of the law.

Gal 3:21-24 God didn't give a law that could give life and make a person righteous. When we believe on Jesus Christ, we are justified by faith.

The Law taught guilt and defined sin (Rom 7).

The Law strengthens sin (1 Cor 15:56).

Rom 3:19-28 If you read your Bible, you'll learn that you are guilty before a holy God (Vs 19), you'll know that you are a sinner (vs 20) who is unable to be justified by the deeds of the law.

We need the righteousness that can be obtained without keeping the Law (vs 21) by believing on Jesus Christ (vs 22). We are all sinners (vs 23), but we can all be justified freely by the grace of God and redeemed (bought back) in Jesus Christ (vs 24). We need to stop declaring our own righteousness and start trusting in the righteousness of the Lord Jesus (vss 25-26). Faith is the victory (vs 27). It leaves no room for boasting. Either Jesus gets you to Heaven, or you won't get there. You can only be justified by faith—without the deeds of the law (vs 28).

Baptism, sacraments, good works, church membership, charity: in Heaven you won't be boasting about those things. You'll boast about your Savior.

Acts 13:38-41 All that believe in Jesus are justified. The law of Moses could not justify you. You may find it hard to believe that your works account for nothing in regard to salvation, but that's what the Bible teaches.

Heb 7:11-19 If the law and the Levitical priesthood could save you, why did God send His Son?

Heb 9:9-12 The sacrifices that were brought to the temple could not make a person perfect (vs 9).

Heb 10:1-10 The law can never make you perfect. The sacrifice of bulls and goats cannot take away sins. We can be perfected (sanctified) through the offering of Jesus Christ once for all (vs 10).