

Works Righteousness vs. Faith Righteousness (*Part 1*)

Romans 10:5-13

Thought for the Day: Here is the Gospel in all of its simplicity: Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. [To call on the name of a person means to put our faith and trust in that person].

The Bible indicates that in the Last Days, there is going to be a great Apostasy, a great falling away from the faith in the Church. That Apostasy is taking place today—literally, around the world! We must be alert and careful that we do not fall prey to this. By God's grace and with His help, we must persevere and stand true to the very end. We must be able to recognize and discern truth from error.

The Bible also says that God's judgment will begin with the House of God and so we'd better be working at taking the 2x4 out of our own eyes before we go after the speck that is in our brother's eye! Having said that, we need to be aware of what is happening in our world.

- Can everyone be saved and get to heaven by doing good?
 - This idea of "doing good" is that we can do things that are pleasing to God and that merit His approval.
 - The Bible says that NO ONE is capable of doing good and earning God's approval (Romans 3:10-12; Isaiah 64:6).
 - Man was created in the image of God but that image was twisted, distorted and all but destroyed by our rebellion against God. We are now controlled by a sinful nature that contaminates everything we do. In God's eyes, we are totally depraved spiritually and incapable of doing anything that merits salvation or earns His approval.
 - "There is a way that seems right to a man [e.g., earning salvation by our good works], but in the end it leads to death." (Proverbs 14:12; 16:25)
 - We do not and cannot come to God by doing good! We cannot earn a right standing before Him by our good works.
- The central question that Paul is dealing with in Romans 9 and 10 is this: Is righteousness, a right standing and relationship with God, obtained by the works of the Law of Moses, as set forth in the Old Testament, or by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ?
 - Or by a combination of both faith and works? For there are those today who teach that we are saved by faith in Jesus Christ plus observance of the Law.
 - The Jerusalem Council described in Acts 15 dealt with this very question: Must we obey the requirements of the Mosaic Law in order to be saved?
 - Peter's comments in Acts 15:6-11 summarize the essence of the conclusion reached:
 - Verse 7 – the Gentiles are saved by hearing and believing the message of the Gospel
 - Verse 9 – God purified their hearts by faith...
 - Verse 10 - ...not by the works of the Law which the Jews themselves had been unable to bear.

- Verse 11 (the absolute clincher) – “No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ that we are saved [the Jews], just as they are [the Gentiles].”
 - The Council concluded that Jews and Gentiles alike are saved by God’s grace when they hear the Gospel and place their faith in Jesus Christ alone apart from any works of the Mosaic Law.
 - The Council requested that the Gentiles refrain from certain practices that were especially offensive to the Jewish believers. But these were for the sake of maintaining fellowship, not for the purpose of earning a saving relationship with God.
- This question of how a person is saved, by works or by faith, was a really BIG DEAL in the beginning of the Church Age.
- A lot of time and effort was expended to establish that salvation is by grace through faith *manifested*, but not *earned*, by good works.
 - You need to know that today, at the end of the Church Age, this has once again become a really BIG DEAL!
 - Because the message is ringing out, loud and clear, around the world that everyone can be saved, simply by being good.
 - You don’t even have to believe in God! You can be an atheist, but if you’re a good person, you will go to heaven.
 - And the icing on the cake is, YOU get to define what it means to be good!
 - The gospel of the Apostate church: *Do good and be saved.*
 - The Gospel of the Apostolic Church: *Be saved and do good.*
- The Bottom Line: “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved” (Romans 10:13).
- We’re not saved by being a member of the “right church.”
 - We’re not saved by being good or doing good.
 - We’re saved by putting our faith (trust, confidence, belief) in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and Him alone! The “name” stands for the Person...
 - Who He is – the Son of God who became a man; God in human flesh (John 1:1, 14)
 - What He did for us – die on the cross for our sins and rise from the dead victorious over sin, death and the devil (1 Corinthians 15:1-8; Hebrews 2:14-15)