

August 26, 2018

Faith and Works

The Relationship Between Faith and Works

- Do my works play any role in my salvation?

2 Cor. 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat [Gr. "bema"] of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done [deeds] in the body, whether good or evil...

Rom 2:6-8 He will render to each one according to his works: 7 to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, e will give eternal life; 8 but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury...

Matt 7:21 Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

- But then the SAME [Mal. 3:6] Word of God also says:

Eph. 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works so that no one may boast

- Paul is not creating a division between grace and good works. He is distinguishing between the KINDS of work in v.9 THAT ARE NOT OF GRACE and the KIND of work in v. 10 THAT IS OF GRACE.

- How should we understand “not a result of works”?

***James 2:17-18** So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. 18 But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works...*

- He is distinguishing between the work of God’s gift of faith in our salvation as opposed to the boasting work of man in our salvation.
- Paul knows that genuine Biblical faith is ALWAYS the gift of God’s own work in us as we cooperate with that work so that it also becomes our work.

***1 Thess 1:3** ...remembering before our God and Father your work of faith...*

***2 Thess 1:11-12** To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power, 12 so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ...*

- This faith work of God is devoid of any man-centered work of boasting [Eph.2:9]. This means that everyone who is born again has already been saved by the vicarious atoning death of Jesus on his behalf.

- But we must receive this salvation by God's gracious gift of the work of faith. Believing in Christ is the work of God in us. We obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus (2 Tim. 1:8).

***Eph. 3:17** Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith...*

***Heb 11:6** ...without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him...*

- Our good deeds are proving our salvation.

***John 15:8** By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciple*