

Missio Dei Fellowship exists to glorify God by delighting in Him and making Him known through the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Salvation Comes To The Gentiles, Pt 6

Acts 10:24-35

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PowerPoint Presentation included: none

SermonAudio Blurb: In this examination of the story of Cornelius and Peter we see how God uses the salvation of Cornelius and his household to show both the impartiality of God in salvation and the relationship between faith and works. This sermon focuses upon the idea of true faith produces works consistent with a changed heart.

I. Introduction.

A. Read vs 35.

B. Last week I began to unpack for you today is the relationship between faith and works.

1. First, we were reminded what saving faith looks like: facts, assent, and trust or love. This is the type of faith that is called by theologians a “living or vital faith.” As opposed to a dead faith.
2. Second, salvation and forgiveness of sin comes only by grace through faith alone.
3. Third, if we are saved by grace through faith alone in Christ alone, then where do good works fit into the Christian faith?

C. And this balance is key and easy to confuse so today we will do a bit more of a detailed examination of the biblical teaching on faith and works.

II. Believe the gospel and do what is right.

A. Faith for good works—Ephesians 2:8-10.

1. Vss 8-9 make the entire work of salvation be of God.
 - a. We contribute nothing to this but faith.
 - b. Until that love for Jesus Christ and a resting and entrusting our very souls to Him occurs, religion can be born, but we are not yet made new and alive in Christ.
 - c. We continue to embrace sin calling it everything else. We continue unchanged in any substantive way. But we claim Christ. But true,

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saving faith is a gift of God and it is a wholehearted trust and hope and fear of the Lord.

- d. But how do we see it? Just like James said, through works and that is what vs 10 says.
 - e. Indicative and the imperative last time.
 - (1) Look at verse 8, indicative or imperative?
 - (2) Look at verse 9, indicative or imperative?
 - (3) Now look at verse 10, indicative or imperative?
2. Paul method of writing his letters.
- a. First the facts and then the commands.
 - b. So here in Ephesians we see three chapters of glorious truths given to us to believe.
 - c. And only then do we begin to see the commands and expectations in earnest.
- B. So how should we understand good works?
- 1. John 14:15.
 - a. You can read this a couple of ways. The first is that through keeping Christ's commandments you then love Christ.
 - b. The second is the correct way, through loving Jesus Christ will result in your obedience in keeping His commandments.
 - c. Christ is telling His disciples a great truth. To love the Lord will result in holiness.
 - d. The one thing you cannot say is that if you love Christ you "may" keep His commandments. His words do not allow for that.
 - e. And how does this work? Vss 16ff then introduces the Holy Spirit.
 - (1) He is your Helper or Advocate.
 - (2) There is something very unique in this work of the Spirit. New affections, conviction, an inner compulsion, a discomfort regarding certain activities or attitudes, a softening of one's heart, and even a sorrow.

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- (3) There are the pangs of a growing realization that things are not right and yet everything is right. Like the old hymn says: *It Is Well with My Soul*

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.
Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate,
And hath shed His own blood for my soul.
My sin—oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!—
My sin, not in part but the whole,
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
For me, be it Christ, be it Christ hence to live:
If Jordan above me shall roll,
No pang shall be mine, for in death as in life
Thou wilt whisper Thy peace to my soul.
But, Lord, 'tis for Thee, for Thy coming we wait,
The sky, not the grave, is our goal;
Oh, trump of the angel! Oh, voice of the Lord!
Blessed hope, blessed rest of my soul!
And Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend,
Even so, it is well with my soul.

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2. Galatians 5:16-26.
 - a. He is speaking to those who claim Christ. But he is also very concerned that many of them simply were professing Christ without truly trusting in Him.
 - b. There is a battle going on there about how a Christian should act and live. A lot of it centered around keeping the Jewish laws, especially circumcision (1-9).
 - c. So he now gives us instruction on holiness not through law-keeping but through the Holy Spirit.
 - d. Vs 16 is the key one to grasp. To walk by the Spirit results in not giving in to the flesh.
 - (1) So, then we must ask how we know if we are conducting our lives by the power of the Holy Spirit? Again, our works. Vss 22-23.
 - (2) Notice also how in 6:1 he addresses dealing with those caught in sin.

III. Conclusion.

- A. Do not fail to understand the order given by the bible. Faith first then works.
 1. Keep these distinct but never separate them.
 2. True faith will produce good works. Good works over time will prove faith.
- B. So let me finish this whole thing by looking at 2 Peter 1:5-11.

Benediction

May the Lord answer you in your day of trouble. May the name of YHWH set you in a secure place on high. May He remember your faithfulness and prayers and may He grant you the true desires of your heart. Amen