

It Is Well

Ephesians 1:8-10 - March 26, 2023

Foundation of Salvation (8-9)

Grace vs. Works

WORKS: deeds/actions/Performance Review

The Land Rush: Sept. 16, 1893 100k Oklahoma. Stake your claim... run through the wilderness, go fast and hard, beat people there, and drive your stake into the ground.

Nope... I go prepare a place for you. The stake was driven through his hands and feet, the spear through His side. You rest in Him... and simply follow His will rather than the will of your old self.

Why works don't work:

The issue at hand is not that you and I are trying to earn heaven but that you and I are deserving of Hell. (We are guilty of sinning against a God who is entirely Holy)

You are trying to erase a debt of sin and appease the wrath of God.

Romans 3:20 Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin.

Isaiah 64:6 And all our righteousnesses *are* like filthy rags

THE ONLY REASON THAT SOUNDS RIDICULOUS IS THAT OUR UNDERSTANDING OF HOW HOLY GOD IS, IS RIDICULOUS. WE CANNOT EVEN COMPREHEND/FATHOM IT.

HAVE BEEN SAVED (Past Tense)

Paul was confident in their Salvation and he wanted them to be as well

If there would have been a time to crack the whip and get a group of people to do what you wanted... this was it. A new church, unaware of what Christianity was supposed to be. (Make yourself significant and by fear, get them to act how you want.)

We should REST in our Salvation and have peace in what Jesus did...

Hymnist Horatio Spafford (1828-1888)

- He was much like Job
- 4 daughter & 1 son
- Prominent and successful lawyer & owned several properties in Chicago
- Loss of son and then the great Chicago Fire consumed most real estate
- 1873 sent wife and daughters on a boat trip to Europe
- Telegram... "saved alone..."
- Passing over the same sea that took the lives of his daughters he wrote...

"It Is Well with My Soul"

*When peace like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll
Whatever my lot, though 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 has regarded my helpless estate,
And hath shed His own blood for my soul
It is well, it is well, with my soul*

It is not by our works but because of God's grace.

GRACE: that which affords joy, or delight, sweetness, charm, loveliness.
To have good will or to show loving-kindness.

Psalm 86:15 But You, O Lord, are a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering and abundant in mercy and truth.

Psalm 103:8 The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in mercy.

2 Timothy 1:9 who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,

GRACE: WE ARE SAVED BECAUSE GOD FINDS JOY AND DELIGHT IN REDEMPTION... HIS WILL FOR YOU IS GOOD, THOUGHTS OF PEACE AND NOT OF EVIL.

Romans 11:6a And if by grace, then it is no longer of works; otherwise grace is no longer grace.

Premarital Evaluation & Obstacle Course.

While we were sinners Christ died for us.

BY GRACE... for by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves.

THROUGH FAITH

What about the lost, unbelieving world?

It is not that God is not **revealing** Himself to them... it's that they are not **receiving**.

- **Acts 7:51** ... you always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you.
- *Remember our Romans 1 passage... (without excuse)*
- People reject the Holy Spirit all the time... in fact, it's **the only unforgivable sin.**

She must make a decision... it's not that, because I proposed now she is engaged.
Is saying yes a righteous act? NOPE! It's fully self-centered in every way.

Let's slow down and really understand this...

Tour bus, J Vernon McGee's Bible Bus

Is faith the same as belief? NO...

James 2:19 You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe - and tremble! (**Tremble: to shudder or to be struck with fear**)

Is faith the same as belief? NO... but one is built upon the other

- Belief comes right before faith
- How could you have faith in something you don't think is real?

Faith: belief with the predominant idea of trust or confidence.

Faith obeys... trust fall. (Stop believing in works)

Faith trusts... do you trust Jesus?

YOU ARE NOT CONTRIBUTING TO THE WORK OF SALVATION BUT YOU ARE CHOOSING TO ACCEPT OR REJECT **THE GIFT OF GOD.**

GIFT = present "Oh... I bought you something"

THROUGH FAITH... is a decision **FAITH IS NOT FORCED NOR IS IT A FEELING.**
YOU ARE NOT CHAINED TO FAITH WHETHER YOU LIKE IT OR NOT.

Faith is a decision, not a deed (*choosing something does not mean you made it.*)

(9) *not of works, lest anyone should boast.*

James 4:16 But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.

BOAST: to glory in

Thank you that I am not like that sinner...

Luke 18:9-14 – beware the trophy wall

Proud of self vs. praising the Lord

2 Corinthians 12:5 Of such a one I will boast; yet of myself I will not boast, except in my infirmities.

(Stories about "I" vs. stories about "He". – **which one evangelizes better?**)

- One exalts self and intimidates others
- The other humbles yourself and gives hope to others.
(If Jesus can save you then Jesus can save me.)

1 Corinthians 1:29 that no flesh should glory in His presence.

- Are you going to write a book better than His
- Preach a sermon better than His – every sermon preached is about His Word.
- Go to greater lengths than He did...

Worth Dying For - Destroy

- He slipped out of his royal garments,
- left eternity to enter time, divinity to wrap himself in humanity.
- The sea of glass, for the ocean of separation.
- He left peace, and for the first time felt pain.
- Because the very hands that held the stars
- were now sentenced to wear my scars.

I don't talk that way... if you start... then you would. (haha)

Vocabulary vs. Content vs. Tone

1 Corinthians 1:31 that, as it is written, "He who glories, let him glory in the LORD."

2 Corinthians 10:17 But "he who glories, let him glory in the LORD."

Galatians 6:14 But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

Foundation of Salvation:

Grace: It pleased the Lord, gave Him joy and delight to extend forgiveness to sinful man that they may be forgiven, set free, and made new... made alive.

By Faith: belief with trust... lean into who He is and what He did

Boast (glory not in ourselves but in Him...)