

Man's Response to the Gospel: Faith Necessarily Leads to Repentance and Good Works

The proper response to the gospel is faith in the person and work of Jesus Christ, a faith that is naturally accompanied by repentance from sin. Biblical repentance is characterized by a changed life, and saving faith is made evident by kingdom service or works. While neither repentance nor works save, unless a person is willing to deny himself, pick up his cross and follow Christ, he cannot become His disciple. This response to the gospel is rooted and grounded in the free and unconditional election of God for His own pleasure and glory. This gospel of grace is to be sincerely preached to all men in all nations. Man's inheritance through the Gospel, Salvation, the free gift of God, is provided by grace alone, through faith alone, because of Christ alone, for the glory of God alone.

The proper response to the gospel is faith in the person and work of Jesus Christ

- Eph 2:8-10: Faith is the only response to the gospel that results in eternal life
 - What kind of faith?.....Faith that Jesus is God and faith in Jesus's work on the cross
 - John 8:25, 1 Corinthians 15:1-4

Is there an improper faith in response to the gospel?

- Yes: John 2:23-25 and James 2:19

How do we know there was a proper response to the gospel?

- John 3:3-5: a person is born again aka regenerated.
- Ezek 36: changing of the heart of stone into a heart of flesh
- The indwelling of the Holy Spirit
- A born again person has faith that Jesus is God and faith in Jesus's work on the cross

Salvation and therefore faith is naturally accompanied by repentance from sin. Biblical repentance is characterized by a changed life

- Descriptive vs Prescriptive
 - a description of salvation would characterize or describe what a born again and therefore saved person looks like
 - a prescription of salvation would be a written direction or order to someone who is not born again to tell them how to be born again and therefore saved
 - Repentance from sin and a changed life are descriptive in the Bible.
 - Not a game plan of how to obtain salvation
 - Instead they are a description of what results in someone who is saved

Acts 2:38 Repent and be baptized for the forgiveness of sins

- Repentance and baptism sound like they lead to the forgiveness of sins
- Why do we take a different view? We see salvation and an overreaching process extending through out all of redemptive history. An umbrella per se.

What does repent mean?

- The Greek word is metaneo: To change one's mind; To feel remorse, repent, be converted
- Biblical repentance is characterized by a changed life
- 1 John 5:18: A born again believer will not habitually sin. Why? Ezekiel 36:26-27

Practical Application: What does a born again believer look like?

- Born again believers:
 - Strive to be more holy because they love God and others
 - Stumble.....both Peter and John Mark got things wrong with Paul
 - Do not continue in habitual sin

Saving faith is made evident by kingdom service or works

- James 2
 - V14..... Can faith without works save us?
 - V 17-18.....What does it mean that faith without works is dead?
 - V 21-24.....How do we summarize James argument?
- Faith and works are ALWAYS linked.
 - You cannot have saving faith without works, and you cannot have good works without saving faith

But Paul says salvation is not a result of works???

- Ephesians 2:8-9
- Are Paul and James contradicting each other? By no means!
 - Descriptive vs. Prescriptive.....James is describing not prescribing

While neither repentance nor works save, unless a person is willing to deny himself, pick up his cross and follow Christ, he cannot become His disciple

- Do not sit by idly: Go.....repentdo good works
- Phil 2: 13-14 - work out your salvation through fear and trembling
- Work because you are saved not to be saved

What about those who proclaim Christ but do not look changed?

- 1 John 2:3-6: If you do not keep his commands Not born again
- I John 2:18-19: Born again believers.....never leave
- We know a tree by its fruit

This response to the gospel is rooted and grounded in the free and unconditional election of God for His own pleasure and glory

- Eph 1:4-6: Salvation began at the foundation of the world
- Why did God plan salvation? Eph 1:9-12: to unite all things in him and for his glory
 - God made a way that something other than himself that was not holy (as God is the only one who is holy) could be made holy and come into relationship and unity with him.

This gospel of grace is to be sincerely preached to all men in all nations

- Why bother preaching? Rom 10:13-21: It is God's means bringing about salvation
 - We have a part to play
 - God chose us to reveal himself
 - Acts 17:24-25
 - God does not need us but chooses to use us

Examples of being used for good purposes when we are not needed

- Roth IRA: Mom hires son as a model for her company so she can pay him and then use the money to contribute to his IRA. She didn't need him to model but chose to use him for his ultimate good
- Acts 27:13-44: Paul commanded them not to leave the ship but God had already proclaimed no lives would be lost
- We are the means God uses to accomplish his purpose.....so spread and preach his gospel

God commands we play a part

- Matthew 28: 19-20
- It's a command: disciple, baptize, and teach
- Do it.....out of love
 - Not because it leads to salvation (for it does not) but because of a love for God and love for others.

Salvation, the free gift of God, is provided by grace alone, through faith alone, because of Christ alone, for the glory of God alone

- Salvation is:
 - A free gift of God (Ephesians 2:8)
 - Provided by grace alone (Ephesians 2:8)
 - Through faith alone (Ephesians 2:8)
 - Because of Christ alone (1 Timothy 2:5)
 - For the glory of God alone (Ephesians 1:12)

Summary of Man's Response to the Gospel

- Salvation comes through the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ for our sins
- The proper response to the gospel is faith which naturally leads to repentance from sin, a changed life, and good works rooted in loving others and loving God
- Those who do not have the evidence of faith, repentance, and good works are not born-again believers
- Those who are born again believers will have this evidence
- The proper response to the gospel began with the unconditional election of God before the earth was ever created
- Each and every part of God's ultimate plan is for his own glory
- We are commanded to preach this gospel to all men in all nations not because God needs us but because he chooses to use us