

SALVATION BY...

(Titus 2:11-14)

Introduction:

1. So much argumentation on the means of salvation. One group declares salvation by grace, another salvation by faith; both condemn those who believe that salvation entails works.
2. But the truth of the matter is not an either/or, but rather an all/and.
3. Let us consider this morning what the Bible teaches us about salvation. It teaches that salvation is by grace, faith, and works.

Discussion:

I. Grace.

- A. The fact that all men have sinned and fallen short (one definition of sin) of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23) plus the fact that salvation is a gift from God (Rom. 6:23) proves that salvation is by grace (*charis* = unmerited favor, a gift).
- B. We cannot earn salvation by works of merit, God offers salvation to us for no other reason than He loves us and desires to be with us (Rom. 4:1-8; 5:7, 8, 15-21).
- C. But understand that the grace (unmerited gift offered) of God is accessed by our faith (Rom. 4:5, 6; 5:1, 2; 6:23).

II. Faith.

- A. Faith is the body of knowledge revealed to us by God (Eph. 4:13; Jude 3; Phil. 1:27).
- B. This faith (body of revealed knowledge) must be believed to be from God and true (1 Thess. 2:13; John 17:17; 1 Cor. 15:1-4).
- C. This faith (body of revealed knowledge) must be believed as being from God and true (faith) and must be lived (faith = 3 John 4; Col. 3:15-17).

III. Works.

- A. The required works of salvation are not works of merit but works of obedient faith. They are not really works, but rather, the expressions of transformation (Rom. 12:1, 2).
 1. It is a good tree bearing good fruit (Matt. 7:17).
 2. It is a repentant heart producing fruit worthy of repentance (Matt. 3:8).
 3. A pursuer of Christ-likeness living a Christ-like life (Rom. 8:29; 1 Cor. 11:1).
 4. A blood bought slave (1 Cor. 6:20) obeying his Master (John 8:24; Luke 13:3, 5; Matt. 10:32; Mk. 16:16).
- B. Rom. 4:1-3 and Jas. 2:21-24 do not contradict but clarify the whole truth!

Conclusion:

1. Notice all of these elements as they are presented in Titus 2:11-14.
 - a. The grace of God has appeared to all = salvation by grace.
 - b. That grace taught us how to be saved = salvation by faith.
 - c. That faith, graciously given, produces hope and good works = salvation by works.
2. As with so much in the Bible order is so important. Without the grace of God faith would be meaningless. Without grace and a revealed faith (means to access that grace) works would be meaningless. All glory to God for all that he has done.
3. Invitation.

MORE ON “SALVATION BY...”

1. There is one aspect that we did not cover that must be addressed.

- We must CONTINUE in the grace of God (Acts 13:43).
- We must CONTINUE in the faith (Acts 14:22).
- We must CONTINUE in good works (Titus 1:16; 2:7, 14; 3:1, 14).

2. Note the three elements in Titus 2:11-14 repeated in Titus 3:3-8.

3. What about repentance?

- Repentance (metanoao = change of mind) is the proper response to new information (THE faith). THE faith causes us to change our mind about God and ourselves, and the relationship between us.
- When we live (works) according to THE faith, then we bear fruits of repentance (Matt. 3:8).

4. What about confession?

- Confession is the public declaration of the truth about Jesus Christ (aka THE faith) as a means of affirming our belief (aka our faith; 1 Tim. 6:12, 13; “witness” = to give testimony-Thayer).
- When we live (works) according to THE faith, then our entire life becomes a “confession” (Matt. 10:32, 33) of the truth about Jesus (our faith living according to THE faith).

5. So-called proofs refuted.

- Eph. 2:8, 9 proves that we are saved by faith only. No, it says we are saved by faith AND grace (which is true but not all the truth). It also says that we are NOT saved by the works of the Law of Moses, otherwise we would be able to boast (cp. Rom. 4:1-4). Where does it say “Law of Moses”? Compare this passage with Rom. 3:19-28; esp. vv 27, 28 for the context of Eph. 2:9. Remember the ultimate refutation of this false teaching is Jas. 2:19-24.

- John 6:44 proves that God decides who will be saved and saves them miraculously. No, John 6:44 AND 45 declares that because we are saved by God’s grace, He gets to decide how we will access that grace (Rom. 5:1, 2). God has decided to reveal THE faith to men as the means by which they can come to Jesus for salvation. When we hear, believe, and obey that revealed will we access the grace of God.