

SALVATION, ONCE SAVED ALWAYS SAVED, WORKS, OBEDIENCE – Re-edited from 2014

Kennedy sings: “You Love Me More Than the Stars” and “Thank You for Saving Me”

More and more as I continue to speak God’s truth I am finding that not many want to hear about obedience. In fact if you bring it up the first thing that is usually said is that salvation is not by works. This argument is usually tied with “once saved, always saved.” Once saved always saved is not a Biblical teaching and people believing this are not rightly dividing the Word. Let’s see what Jesus and the Word have to say on this subject. I do not want to mislead anyone and I believe that many are deceiving themselves. They like the message of eternal security without doing anything. – that is a false doctrine.

----**Eph.2:8-9** - For by grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works (effort), lest any man should boast.

Grace is only of God and so is faith.

--- **Romans 12:3** - For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly according as God has dealt to every man the measure of faith. (The Greek says “a” measure of faith)

So God freely saves by grace and He gives you a measure of faith to believe, but you have to exercise that faith or choose to believe or not. The more you exercise your faith, the stronger it gets.

As with any gift, you choose to accept it or not. And keep it or not. Because you can throw it away. Some gifts today are not considered valuable and we are not happy to receive them. Sometimes after the new wears off of a gift we don’t like it anymore. Sometimes you put it away and forget you even have it. Salvation is freely given, and it is the most precious gift you will ever receive if you choose to receive it.

Will you always have your salvation?

I had a man tell me that I'm preaching condemnation, for salvation is a free gift and not of works. He is arguing the point that even if all of your works burn up, you will still be saved.

So that is a message of eternal security – once saved, always saved. That is a lie. What I preach is God's Word and it is Truth, and the Truth will set you free! (John 8:32)

Works – 2041 ergon = to work; toil. This was the "works" in

John 14:11-12 – Believe Me (Jesus) that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me: or else believe Me for the very works' sake. Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on Me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto My Father.

Ephesians 2:10 - For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God has before ordained (prepared) that we should walk in them.

Now God expects us to walk in the works He prepared for us. So if you decide to just blow off the works and do nothing, is that ok? Are you still in a right relationship doing nothing, no works, no spreading the gospel, no nothing? NO!

James 2:17, 20, 26 – Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

Hebrews 11:6 – But without faith it is impossible to please Him; for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.

Are you seeking Him at all when you aren't doing anything that He prepared for you to do. NO! Dead faith will not and does not please God.

You have to actually DO something.

Phi. 2:12 – Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

“work out” – 2716 Katergazomai (katergadzomahee) do work fully, accomplish; to finish (emphatic form – achieve, effect by toil). You have to finish it or accomplish it. It is a process...

REWARDS

In this life:

Matt.5:46a – love those that love you, what reward do you have?

Matt.6:2-16 - Therefore when you do your alms (giving), do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, they have their reward.

In the life to come:

Matt.5:41 – receiving a prophet and getting a prophet’s reward, receiving a righteous man and getting a righteous man’s reward.

Luke 6:35 – great reward for loving your enemies and DOING good, and lending hoping for nothing in return..

I Cor.3:8-9 – Now he that plants and he that waters are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour. For we are labourers together with God: you are God’s husbandry, you are God’s building.

Crowns – we know there are five crowns that will be given as rewards but they are not the only rewards.

Rev.22:12 - And, behold, I come quickly; and My reward is with Me, to give every man according as his work shall be. Work – 3408 misthos = pay for services (good or bad).

The attitude of many is that they don't care if their rewards burn up at least they have salvation and they squeaked in. They like the idea of living in sin and living like hell and doing as they please but feeling that God will save them anyway. It is a win-win situation. This is false teaching straight out of hell. Jesus did not die on the cross and endure all that He did for you to live like hell. That is a slap in God's face.

I Cor. 3:11-14 – For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

Stones, jewels & gold – eternal righteous truth:

I Peter 2:5 – You also, as **living stones**, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

Malachi 3:16-17 – Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before Him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon His name. And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up **My jewels**; and I will spare them, as a man spares his own son that serves him. I

Peter 1:7 – That the trial of your faith being much more precious than of **gold** that perishes, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ

Job 23:10 – But He knows the way that I take: when He has tried me, I shall come forth as **gold**.

Wood, hay and stubble:

Carnal sin, corrupt opinions & doctrines.

Wood:

Prov.26:21 - As coals *are* to burning coals, and wood to fire; so *is* a contentious man to kindle strife.

Matt.7:19 – every **tree** not bearing fruit is cut down and thrown in the fire.

Hay – **Chaff** ([/ˈtʃæf/](#) or [/ˈtʃɑːf/](#))^[1] is the dry, scaly protective casings of the seeds of [cereal grain](#), or similar fine, dry, scaly plant material such as scaly parts of [flowers](#), or finely chopped [straw](#). Chaff is indigestible by humans, but [livestock](#) can eat it and in [agriculture](#) it is used as livestock [fodder](#), or is a waste material [ploughed](#) into the [soil](#) or burnt.

Matt.4:12 – Whose fan is in His (Jesus) hand, and He will thoroughly purge His floor, and gather His wheat into the garner; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

Matt.13:29-30 - But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.

Stubble:

Malachi 4:1 - For, behold, the day comes that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yes, and all that do wickedly, shall be **stubble**: and the day that comes shall burn them up, says the LORD of Hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.

1 Cor.9:1 – Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? Are not **you my work** in the Lord? (converts) Gal.4:11 – similar

So now you can see our “work” is first and foremost the leading of people to salvation.

Rewards and deeds do not burn up – people do. Rewards can be lost (II John 1:8, Rev.3:11 – let no man take your crown).

The Christian is being judged now and the impurities are being burned off as dross from gold now in this life. (Job 23:10, Isaiah 48:10, Heb.12:5-8, Rev. 3:19) His

children will be baptized with fire. (Matt.3:11) Remember Peter saying our faith is being tried and is more precious than gold. If you are not having any trials or tribulations or any conviction, you better check your walk.

Unbelief

Heb.3:12, 19 – Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.

unbelief 570 apistia = disobedience, unfaithfulness / Heb. 4:11 – unbelief – 543 apeitheia disbelief (obstinate and rebellious) disobedience. I Sam.15:23 For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, ...Rev.21:8 – unbelieving 571 apistos = disbelieving – without Christian faith.

Titus 1:15-16 – Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled. They profess that they know God; but in WORKS they deny Him, being abominable (evil), and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate (worthless).

II Tim.3:4-5 – Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness (religion), but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

Col.3:6 – For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:

Phi.3:14 – I press toward the mark (goal) for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Why press at all? Paul was a doer – (James 1:23)

Peter had to do something – feed sheep and lambs.

We are told to spread the gospel, bear fruit and study to show ourselves approved etc. John 15:8 – bear much fruit.. What is our fruit?

Prov.11:30 - The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that wins souls is wise.

We see this tree of life again in the very last chapter of the Bible

Rev. 22:14 – Blessed are they that DO His commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. And don't forget the fruit of the Spirit:

Gal.5:22 - ...love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance... James 2:22 – But be doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

II Cor. 5:9 – Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, **we may be accepted** of Him.

Luke 21:36 – Watch ye therefore, and pray always, **that ye may be accounted worthy** to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

Matt.6:20-21 - But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. ****If you aren't obeying the Lord and doing any works – are you laying up treasures? And if you aren't laying up any treasures, then is your heart in heaven? NO.**

John 14:15 – If you love Me (Jesus), keep My commandments. We have to show Him that we love Him by what we do.

Just like Abraham was tested and had to show that he was willing to give his only son. That proved his love to God.

John 3:16 – For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Believeth – 4100 pisteuo – to have faith in, entrust (one's spiritual well being to Christ). Pisteuo means not just to believe, but also to be persuaded of; and hence, to place confidence in, to trust, and signifies, in this sense of the word, reliance

upon, not mere credence (head knowledge), hence it is translated “commit unto”, commit to one’s trust, be committed unto, etc. Give Him all of you, ask Him what He created you for. Let Him use your life for His glory.

I have some Christian friends that say they went away from God for long periods of time living the way they wanted to but they always knew that God was still with them. They believed during that whole time they were still saved. Just as I have a friend who is gay and says that God is blessing him in abundance.

To this I say:

Jer.17:9 – The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

John 10:27-30 – My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any *man* pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave *them* me, is greater than all; and no *man* is able to pluck *them* out of my Father's hand. I and *my* Father are one.

Sheep follow (this is an action - DO) Sheep are taking action and following in their Masters footsteps, but anyone that is not truly a sheep CAN BE TAKEN from Jesus’ hand.

CLOSING

James Merritt, “If God is not the center of your world, then you are not going to like heaven.”

PRAYER

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t4XRkLEfnJo&t=801s>