

"herald the good news" Romans 10:15

THE HERALD

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"If There are No Works One Must Do..."

It is often taught in the religious world that there are no works one must do in order to be saved from sin. It is alleged that salvation is by "grace only" or "faith only" and there are no works one is required to perform in order to be saved. Passages such as Ephesians 2:8-9, which says that salvation is "not of works," are often cited to prove that there are *no* works one must do to be saved.

Those who take the "no-works position" often affirm that: (1) salvation is not by works; (2) baptism is a work; and therefore (3) one cannot be saved by being baptized. Thus, anytime a verse is presented which indicates that baptism is necessary for salvation, those who are inclined to believe there are "no works" required will present the above argument in an attempt to dismiss the verse about baptism.

However, if we are going to throw out baptism because it involves human activity (some call it a "work"), then let us also be prepared to dispose of a number of other Biblical requirements. For example, if there are "no works" one must do to be saved, then one does not have to believe in Christ because believing is a "work" (John 6:29). Paul wrote, "For with the heart **man believeth** unto righteousness" (Rom. 10:10). These verses clearly show that believing is a *work* that *man* does! So if all works are to be disposed of, then out goes believing in Christ.

Further, if there are no works involved in being saved, then repentance is not involved because it is a work. Scripture says concerning the people of Nineveh that God "saw their **works**, that they turned from their evil way (Jonah 3:10). Matthew makes it clear that their "works" involved repentance (Matt. 12:41). In addition, Paul taught "all **men** everywhere are **commanded to repent**" (Acts 17:30). Therefore, according to these verses, repentance is a work that man has been commanded to do. But if no works are required for salvation, then repentance is not required.

Other practices would have to be disposed of as well, if the no-works doctrine were true-praying the "Sinners Prayer," accepting Jesus as one's personal Savior, confessing one's faith in Christ—all these things involve human activity (that is, "work").

Why would anyone put himself into such an inconsistent position of denying that works are necessary while at the same time trying to hold on to the belief that faith, repentance, and saying the "Sinner's Prayer" are necessary? (Con't on page. 3)

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

1. I MUST BELIEVE

"But without faith, it is impossible to please Him" (Hebrews 11:6)

2. I MUST REPENT

"Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish" (Luke 13:3)

3. I MUST CONFESS

"And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God" (Acts 8:37)

4. I MUST BE BAPTIZED

"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." (Mark 16:16)

5. I MUST LIVE RIGHT

"We should live soberly, righteously, and Godly in this present world" (Titus 2:12)

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY

Worship at 10:30 am & 6:00 pm
Bible Class at 9:30 am

WEDNESDAY

Bible Class at 7:00 pm

ELDERS

Fred Barnett, Mark DeLong,
Rodney Newton, Ray Poston, Stephen Stilwell

DEACONS

Micah Busbey, Brad Carter, Karl Dawson, John Heldreth,
Michael Lloyd, Bob McIndoo, Jeff Morris, Juan Nunez,
Mark Springer, Leland Steely, Tim Tapp

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Upcoming Events

Today

Visitation Brigade

Saturday, October 10

Devo in Clay

Saturday, October 17

Modest is Hottest Girls

Convention

Saturday, October 24

College Care Packages

We're going to collect goodies during the month of October for our college-age students who have moved away. We will collect all the items for 3 weeks.

Here is a list of suggested items that we will start collecting on Sunday, October 11th:

- Pens
- Chips, crackers, peanuts, cereal & cookies in small, individual bags
- Granola bars
- Wal-Mart Gift Cards (please designate amount on back)
- Post-It Notes
- Any personalized cards will also be placed in the packages!

We want to make sure that each of our college students can receive a package from 'home' while they're at school! Please feel free to see me at anytime if you have a question or would like to help. (NM)

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY (Oct. 7)

Opening Prayer: Leland Steely
 Closing Prayer: Greg Warmack
 Devotional: Gary Puryear
 Song Leader: Ray Poston

SUNDAY (Oct. 11)

AT THE TABLE

*Fred Barnett John Heldreth
 *Kenny Brantley Jerry Whittedge
 Jim Hayes John West
 Greg Warmack Barney Shockely

*Denotes those to serve communion Sunday night

AM Worship

Announcements: Ray Poston
 Opening Prayer: Stephen Stilwell
 Scripture Reading: Glenn Lewis
 Closing Prayer: J.B. Slaughter
 Ushers: Jim Burke
 Karl Dawson

DOOR GREETERS

Terry Bonds
 Brenda Bonds
 Linda Ayers

PM Worship

Opening Prayer: Juan Nunez
 Scripture Reading: Everett Mays
 Closing Prayer: Sam Morris

FOR THE RECORD (9/27/09):

Sunday Morning Worship: 242
 Sunday Morning Bible Study: 176
 Sunday Evening Worship: 139
 Wednesday Bible Study: 115
 Contribution: \$6003.60

Would it not be better to recognize that the "not of works" statement in Ephesians 2:8-9 does not prohibit faith, repentance, confession, and baptism? There has never been a clearer statement than this: "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost" (Acts 2:38).

Mark Lindley

NEWS AND NOTES

Prayer Request: Ann Eddins-Redbanks Rm.201, Debbie Newman, George Newman, Carolyn Clevenger, Kathy Riggs, Tommy Jenkins, Debbie Hein (another eye surgery upcoming), Buck and Wanda Gish, Joann Hayes, Greg Tapp, John Kavanaugh, Jenny Revlett, Wayne Moore, Terry Thurston, Jim Meadows, Cindy Embry, Arnie Daniels, Louise McIlwain's brother, Rebekah Hargis, Larry Snodgrass, Sally Carr (Sherry Rashidian's mother).

Sympathy: To the Thomason family in the passing of Gene.

Sympathy: To the family of Edith Ray. Sister Ray passed away this past Tuesday.

Baby Shower: For Scott and Bridgett (Stilwell) Fordyce on Oct. 11 from 2-4 p.m. in the basement. All reports say it will be a boy. They are registered at Target and Babies R Us. The shower is hosted by Sue Poston, Karen Fletcher and Ashley Mathis.

Thanks so Much: To all those who helped in so many ways during our Homecoming and Meeting. Bro. Phillips did an excellent job in presenting some timely lessons. Continue to pray for him and his family. G.P.