

FAITH AND WORKS

How Are We Justified?

Two Viewpoints

FAITH ONLY

- ▣ We are justified by grace through faith. (Ephesians 2:8)
- ▣ Works have nothing to do with salvation.
- ▣ Salvation comes through confession (Romans 10:9)

WORKS

- ▣ Our deeds alone determine our eternity.
- ▣ All you basically have to do is “be a good person.”
- ▣ “Bad people” go to hell and “good people” go to heaven.

“Faith only”

- What is faith?
 - Hebrews 11:1-3, 6
- Faith doesn't mean blindly accepting, but diligently seeking!
 - Psalm 119:9-16
 - Matthew 5:6
- Faith requires us to search the scriptures for truth, and not to rely on man.
 - Acts 17:11
 - Ephesians 4:14
 - 1 John 4:1-3



1 John 4:1–3

• Does this mean that all “Christian” sects are acceptable in God’s sight?

- Galatians 1:8

- 2 Corinthians 11:3–4

• “Any other gospel” or “another Jesus” is anything that diverts from the truth of the Bible.

- 2 Timothy 3:16–4:4

▣ “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.”

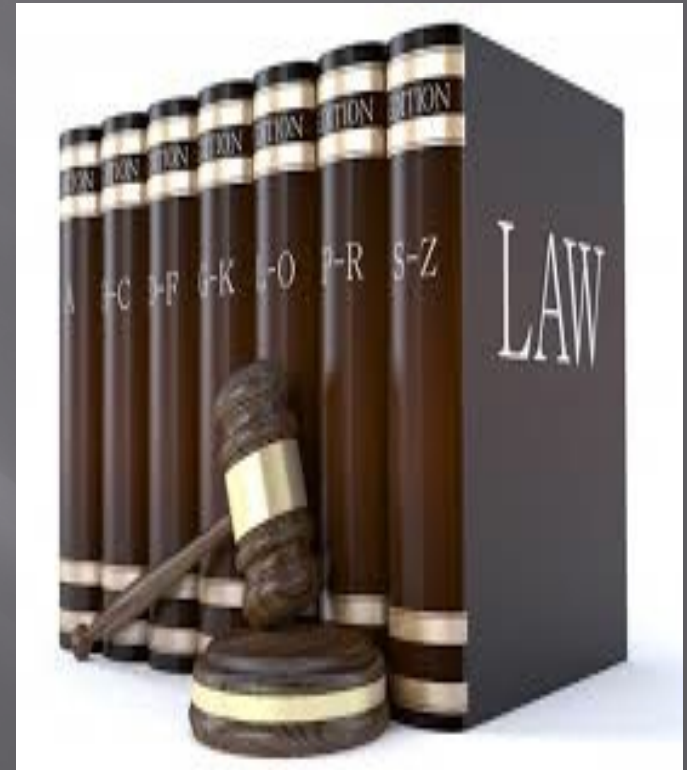
Context!

- Romans 3:27-28, 31
- Romans 6:1-2
- Ephesians 2:8-9, 4:17-32
- Romans 10:9
 - Wouldn't confession qualify as a work?
- Shows incorrect understanding of scripture.
 - James 2:14-26

Context
Matters

Works

- Works of the Law (Romans 3:28)
- Judaizing teaching
 - Circumcision (Galatians 5:3-4)
- Old Law no longer sufficient
 - Hebrews 10:1-4
- Popular thinking tries to say that all “good people” will go to heaven.
- No consequence for “minor” sins.
- If you refrain from doing bad things, that makes you a good person.



Our Works are Insufficient!

- ▣ Isaiah 64:6
- ▣ Philippians 3:3-9
- ▣ None of us are good!
 - Romans 3:10-12, 23
- ▣ Luke 6:43-45
 - Calling ourselves good is like calling a thornbush a grapevine!
- ▣ We need to do good, not just avoid bad.
 - James 4:17

Faith AND Works

▣ Ephesians 2:8-9

■ Salvation is a gift from God that we cannot earn.

▣ James 2:14-16

■ We show our faith through our works.

▣ Faith alone is not a biblical concept, and neither is earning salvation through works.

How do we receive God's grace?

- Jesus' death provides the avenue
 - Hebrews 10:10
- Hear (Luke 8:5-8)
- Believe (Acts 8:37)
- Repent (Luke 13:3)
- Confess (Romans 10:9)
- Be baptized (Acts 2:38)
- Walk in newness of life (Ephesians 4:17-32)

