

## **Is it Grace, Works or Both?**

### **Part II**

**September 27, 2020**

by C Benjamin Dill

Good morning, Lighthouse, are you ready for the Word of God this morning?

We have in our midst a brand-new crop of new believers.

Isn't it amazing that even though Satan has tried to shut down Churches all across America and the world, here, where we refuse to be shut down, God is still steadily adding new believers to His fold!

Most of you are tough old Christians who know very well what you believe.

Satan's ministers have little chance in confusing your understanding of the Gospel; however, he will come after our new babes in Christ.

Even you new believers are safe enough; you are in Christ and nothing can separate you from Him.

Yet, if he can confuse you, if he can get you doubting, the result will be that you will be much less vocal about what Jesus has done for you.

I vividly remember when I was saved. When I received the free gift of eternal life, what an incredible thing that was!

There I was, on my way to hell with absolutely nothing I could do about it; I was without hope and without God in the world.

Religion told me I had to live it, I had to be holy enough, I had to be righteous enough; things I knew I could never be.

And then the Lord set me up with one of His messengers who showed me in the Bible that the Lord knew all this, He loved me anyway and did it all for me Himself!

The whole entire reason that Jesus, God Himself, died on the cross was to pay my debt that I could never pay.

When I trusted Jesus to do that for me and I received that incredible peace and joy that came with my salvation, I wanted to tell everybody!

And I just about did! Most of them thought I was crazy but some didn't; I began bringing people to Christ.

That's when Satan unleashed what seemed like a whole army of false teachers to try and confuse me and shut me down.

The Bible warns us that this is going to happen:

### **Galatians 1:6-9**

6 I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:

7 Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.

8 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.

9 As we said before, so say I now again, If any *man* preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

False teachers abound; even more today than back then:

### **2 Corinthians 11:13-15**

13 For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.

14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

15 Therefore *it is* no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

I was suddenly inundated with religion.

The Mormons showed up.

The Jehovah's Witnesses showed up.

The "Church of Christ" Campbellites showed up.

More Pentecostals showed up.

One major theme ran through them all. Later, as time and experience would prove, this one theme separates all false religion from the truth.

That theme, that brand of lie that ran through them all, was that God's grace was not enough; that it takes your works in addition to what Jesus did on the cross -

Either to get saved, or to stay saved, or maybe both.

Were they sincere? Oh, yes, they were sincere; just sincerely wrong.

They used Scriptures like:

**James 2:22** Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?

**James 2:24** Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.

How is a new believer, just getting started in the Word, going to know that yes, it takes works to justify us in the eyes of men, which is what James is teaching us?

**Romans 4:2** For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath *whereof* to glory; but not before God.

Another one of their favorites was:

### **Philippians 2:12-13**

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.

13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure.

How is a young believer going to know that “work out” does not mean “work for”? That Greek word translated “work out” means to accomplish.

Jesus did not save you so that you could sit on a cloud and play a harp for eternity!

God wants us to accomplish the purpose for which He saved us; as verse 13 clearly says.

Yes, many of you can quote it and explain it as well as I can; but we’re going to go through it one more time just for those who can’t...yet.

### **Ephesians 2:8-9**

8 For by **grace** are ye saved through **faith**; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God:

9 Not of **works**, lest any man should boast.

#### **I. We are saved by grace.**

*A. The grace of God is extended to us in many forms and in many ways and circumstances.*

1. In this specific application, the grace of God that saves a man from his sins is that gracious act of pure love on the part of Jesus in His shedding His blood for us on the cross; thereby paying our debt of sin **completely** and **in full**.

2. There is no other act of grace, no other way, no other system of religion, no other plan or action of any kind that can save a sinner from the judgment of God we all deserve.

3. **Acts 4:12** Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

4. **John 14:6** Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

5. So this is settled! Amen?

6. The grace by which we are saved is what Jesus did for us on the cross.

## II. We are saved through faith.

*A. Grace is what God does; faith is what we do.*

1. Which saved you? What God did or what you did? What does the Scripture say?

2. That's right, **For by grace (what God did) are ye saved.**

3. God's grace is received through faith.

4. Faith means to trust in, to rely upon.

5. Everyone understands what faith is; we use it every day.

a. You take the medicine your doctor prescribes.

b. You merge into fast moving traffic.

c. You get on an airplane.

d. You sign a note to pay for a car.

e. You eat food at a restaurant that someone else prepared.

6. Like grace, faith is a term that can be and is used broadly; faith or trust can be placed in many things; including the wrong things.

7. Half of those married in America later get a divorce; often because someone placed their faith in the wrong person.

*B. In this application, verse 8 speaks of our placing our trust, our faith, in that gracious act of Jesus when He shed His blood for us on the cross.*

1. It is BY grace THROUGH faith.

## 2. **Romans 3:24-25**

**24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:**

25 Whom God hath set forth *to be* a propitiation **through faith in his blood**, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

3. **It is not our faith that saves us**, it is what our faith is in that saves us...provided you have placed your faith in the right thing, which is, exclusively, the blood of Jesus!

4. **Romans 5:9** Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

5. Faith is that which connects you to God's grace.

6. Our faith does not save us, but it connects with that which does.

### III. Our salvation is not of works.

A. *Sometimes the Bible, in order to clarify what is, shows us what is not.*

1. For example Psalm 1.

2. **Psalm 1:1** Blessed *is* the man that **walketh not** in the counsel of the ungodly, **nor standeth** in the way of sinners, **nor sitteth** in the seat of the scornful.

B. *Salvation is not of works.*

1. Good works are just that; good! Good works are good and wonderful and God is all for it that we who are saved should continually do good works.

2. Again:

**Ephesians 2:10** For we are his workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus unto good works**, which **God hath before ordained that we should walk in them**.

3. God simply wants to make it loud and clear that good works on our part have no role whatsoever in saving us from the penalty of our sins.

4. The only good work that has anything to do with saving us is that one good work that Jesus did for us when He died in our place and was buried and rose again the third day!

### IV. Furthermore, salvation is not of ourselves.

A. *There are other things we must do that are not works.*

1. Exercising faith is one of those things we must do that is not a work.

2. Faith is more like a choice, a decision to trust.

3. Faith is NOT a work, as we have previously established from Scripture.

4. And, as we have already established, it is not our faith that saves us; it is, of course, what our faith is in.

*B. Another of those things that we must do that is not a work is to **repent**.*

1. **Mark 1:14-15**

14 Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God,

15 And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: **repent ye, and believe the gospel.**

2. **Acts 17:30** And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to **repent**:

3. Repent is *metanoēō*

*met-an-o-eh'-o*

From [G3326](#) and [G3539](#); to *think differently or afterwards*, that is, *reconsider* (morally to *feel compunction*): - repent.

4. This command is to change your mind.

5. Changing our mind **is of ourselves**... but it is not a work.

6. Don't you have to change your mind about what to trust in, in order to place your faith in Jesus?

7. Repentance for the lost man is quite simple and easy to understand, yet is one of the most twisted and misrepresented terms in the Bible; even at the hands of well-meaning Baptist preachers.

8. You preachers; don't ever stand up and tell a lost man he must turn from his sins in order to be saved.

a. Not only is turning from his sins a work, he simply cannot do it until after he is saved and has the power of Christ living in him.

b. Tell him to change his mind about what he is depending on and put his trust in Jesus.

9. Even so, it is not the changing of our mind that saves us, it is what we change our mind to trust in that saves us, provided that the object of that new trust is the blood of Jesus.

**Conclusion:**

**So, is it grace, works or both?**

**If you are talking about how to get to heaven it is all grace!**

**Satan is going to try and confuse you; he really wants to shut you up.**

**Satan is also a pretty good judge of who will and who won't become a powerful and vocal witness for Jesus Christ.**

**The more your potential, the stronger and more persistent the attacks.**

**Let me share with you some of the wisdom God gave me when I needed it the most.**

**There were some things I did surely know:**

**I knew I was saved.**

**I also knew who God used to get me there.**

**I remember telling one of them once that had me cornered and was hitting me with scripture I hadn't even read yet:**

**"Look, I know I'm saved and I know who led me to Christ; so until I understand these Scriptures for myself, I'm sticking with the one who introduced me to Jesus".**

**There's an old saying that fits this bit of wisdom: "dance with the one who brung you".**