

Good Works— No Pay!



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Payment has to be made for the sins in our past, but only One can pay the price. We are saved by God's *grace* through *faith* in the atoning Blood of Christ on Calvary's Cross! It was an *eternal* sacrifice that He made for the *entire* world. We must *know* it and *trust* it.

Romans 4:16 "Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all."

Abraham's faith was acceptable faith—it is not only *spoken* but is *acting* faith on what we *know* is the will of God on any given issue. Payment for our sins was made on the Cross—Ephesians 2:8 "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works [not on the ground of merit], lest any man should boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."

A good *judge* makes a just *ruling*. If someone breaks the law, there are consequences for breaking the law. Therefore, the *just God* of the universe will have to make a *just decision* when we come before Him to give account. The world wants *justice*—but when we face the Judge of

everyone at the *end* of this life, will justice be what we want *then*—that is the question!

Hebrews 12:28 "Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear." That promise of an inheritance is for anyone who will trust God in faith—and *continue* to trust Him in all trials and tests of faith—all who will "Serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear."

The messages on the Ten Commandments had us think that maybe we are not that bad—maybe we have broken only one or two of God's laws. James 2:10 "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all." Violating just *one* is the same as breaking all ten! That is a tough standard to live up to—but it is the standard of the Law of God.

Over 7 billion people would be found *guilty* since no one meets the *standard* that God has set in His Law. Everyone is guilty because *good works yields no pay!* We *obey* God out of love for God—but that *obedience* does *not pay* for the salvation we *need*.

Obedience is just *evidence* that we *love God* with all our heart, soul, and mind—and that we *believe* in the *evidence* that His Son paid the price for our sins. Luke 17:10 "So you also, when you have obeyed all the orders given you, must say, 'There is no merit in our service: what we have done is only what we were in duty bound to do.'"

Good works in our life, yields *no pay* for our sins; but a believing *faith* on the atoning *Blood* of Christ for everything guarantees full *pay* and a one-way *ticket* to Paradise. 1 Peter 1:6 "Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: 7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto

praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ."

The seriousness of our sin is measured not only by the act itself, but also by whom it was committed *against*—and in this case it is against God Himself. When King David took another man's wife and then had the man killed to cover up the sin, it was a very *serious wrong* and a very *serious sin* against God—and King David *admitted* the mistake and the sin he committed—so he confessed before God. Psalm 51:4 "Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done this evil in Your sight—That You may be found just when You speak, And blameless when You judge."

At times we do not *think* like the King did—unfortunately—and we do not *confess* like the King did. We reason that serious *criminals* deserve serious *sentences*, but *lesser* sentences are deserving of those guilty of *lesser* sins. By the standard of the Ten Commandments, however, no one can say 'Not guilty!' Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;" Romans 3:10 "There is none righteous, no, not one."

That being the case then, everyone is guilty of *some sins* or of *many wrongs* against God—sins that must be *paid* for. Everyone would be guilty and sentenced to eternal suffering because of those sins, so we must know *how* we can be *sure* that we would *not* be sentenced to the lake of fire forever and ever. There *has* to be a way, and only *God* could *design* it and *provide* it.

The Law of God, the Ten Commandments, says that everyone will be guilty on Judgment Day, unless there is Someone who is *willing* and *able* to commute our sentence. Therefore we earnestly seek a way to go from *guilty* to *not guilty* when we stand before Jesus. Galatians 3:24 "Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith." The *key* is *faith*—real faith in the *Faithful One*.

Romans 4:16 “Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace.”

We know that everyone has broken the commands of God. Romans 2:15 “Since they exhibit proof that a knowledge of the conduct which the Law requires is engraven on their hearts, while their consciences also bear witness to the Law, and their thoughts, as if in mutual discussion, accuse them or perhaps maintain their innocence—16 on the day when God will judge the secrets of men’s lives by Jesus Christ, as declared in the Good News as I have taught it.”

If God judged our secret *thoughts*—our full intentions and our hidden attitudes, where would we be—is the question. Would we maintain our innocence, or know that we are guilty due to unconfessed sin—are the questions to ask as we search our heart for truth.

No matter what good works we may have done and over how many years, no payment for them means no salvation by them. It is not good works, but a good confession and a sincere repentance before God—being sure to ask Him for a forgiving heart toward everyone—Matthew 6:14 “For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: 15 But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”

As the return of Jesus comes ever nearer, we must be sure we are not harboring resentment toward anyone for any reason—in light of that verse. Another question to ask—if Jesus would return today, what is on the other side! What will we see first when we leave this world! Most would say, “I don’t know”—but we can know and we must know.

The apostle said we can be certain whether or not we will enter God’s kingdom—1 John 5:11 “God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.” Eternal life is having the Son of God

in our heart—not having resentment, bitterness, anger, hatred; or animosity in our heart—but having Christ abiding within, which would replace any resentment within. 1 John 5:12 “He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.”

Many say that they believe in Jesus, but the test that we must give ourselves is this—can we say that He is truly abiding within our heart; because if He is, then His presence would remove any resentment, hatred, or revengeful attitudes that were residing there previously.

It is a self-test so we would know what is on the other side of this life and whether we are heading there. 1 John 5:13 “These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.”

The only way to be sure of what is on the other side, is to be sure we believe and trust on the Name of the Son of God—it is His eternal sacrifice for sin that can give anyone that one-way ticket to their eternal home—the conditions of faith in Him must be met. It is genuine faith in Christ—the kind that heals; supplies; and forgives everyone who has ever harmed us. Acts 3:16 “It is His name—faith in that name being the condition—which has strengthened this man whom you behold and know.”

Good works in our life, provides no pay for sins in our heart—but a genuine faith in the atoning Blood of Jesus is full pay for every sin we have ever committed. 1 Peter 1:18 “Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; 19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”

Perfected faith in the perfect sacrifice of the Lord Jesus is the full payment everyone needs to get out of this world spiritually alive. It is a choice, but the most important one we will ever make. 1 Peter 1:21 “Through Christ you have come to trust in God. And because God raised Christ from the dead and gave him great glory, your faith and hope can be placed confidently in God.”

We can know what is on the other side; we can know and believe that full payment has been made for the sins we have committed. It is not good works we do, but a good faith in Christ that we keep—that is what enables us to stand before God cleansed of all sins.

1 Peter 1:22 “Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently.”

1 Peter 1:22 “Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart.”

Today there are 7.8 billion people in the world who would all end in the lake of fire—unless they accept God’s solution to this massive and serious problem. The path to eternal life is clearly explained in the Bible—it is an active, believing faith in the resurrection power of the Lord Jesus—that is the solution and the gift that keeps on giving—forever and ever!



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