

Are We Saved by Grace or by Works?

The concept of being Saved by Grace alone is not supported by Scripture, neither is being Saved by Works alone. The two are intrinsically tied together, works are an outward sign that Grace is in action in your soul.

Matthew 7:21 *Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. 22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? 23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*

James 2:17 *Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. 18 Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works. 19 Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. 20 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?*

One might ask then, what works are expected of us?

Mark 16:16 - *He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.*

3 Nephi 10:31 - *And whosoever will hearken unto my words, and repenteth, and is baptized, the same shall be saved.*

Mark 13:13 - *And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.*

1 Nephi 7:69 - *Wherefore, if ye shall be obedient to the commandments, and endure to the end, ye shall be saved at the last day.*

As we can see, Faith, Repentance, Obedience to God's Commandments, Baptism and Enduring unto the end are all essential. As we can see in Matthew 7, Jesus prophecies of the Judgment Day where many will have expectations of salvation and have professed Christ but shall be turned away as "workers of iniquity". Only Infants, Little Children and those who truly never knew God's will are excluded from these requirements.

Galatians 5:19 *Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, 20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, 21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.*

Alma 5:36 - *And he doth not dwell in unholy temples; neither can filthiness, nor anything which is unclean be received into the kingdom of God;*

So what then, is Paul referring to about "Works" that did not save us?

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, lest any man should boast.*

Romans 3:23 *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*

One must remember who the audience was that Paul was preaching to... The Jews of old who were under the Law of Moses. They were studiously practicing the rites and rituals of the Law of Moses but practicing in hypocrisy and never understanding the purpose of the Law of Moses which was a type and shadow of Christ to come and His mission on the Cross. Both Paul and Isaiah speak to this:

Isaiah 66:3 *He that killeth an ox is as if he slew a man; he that sacrificeth a lamb, as if he cut off a dog's neck; he that offereth an oblation, as if he offered swine's blood; he that burneth incense, as if he blessed an idol. Yea, they have chosen their own ways, and their soul delighteth in their abominations.*

The greatest obstacle Jesus and the Apostles faced was trying to convince the Jews that the Law of Moses was fulfilled in Christ. The Jews were dead set on the works under the Law of Moses as their path to salvation. Indeed it is by Grace we are saved, but wicked works and practices are a sign of unbelief and no unclean thing can inherit the Kingdom of Heaven.