

#19 *FORUM POST ON WORKS VS. FAITH

Dear B____,

Your comment of "we must do our part" is a belief from this world. You are mixing man's work (Old Covenant) with Christ's work (New Covenant). Our salvation is 100% the work of Christ and His work is spiritual. The spiritual work of Christ happens "within" mankind. He is the one who changes our hearts and minds.

Your belief violates what Paul said here:

Eph 2:8-9 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

If mankind has to "do our part", we have something to boast about. This statement contradicts the verse above.

Christ addressed it here:

Mat 6:22-24 The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness! No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

Christ is teaching about walking by faith. Our "eye" is evil when we walk by sight. In other words, Christ is saying that we are to live our lives totally dependent on God who will direct our steps. That takes faith. We are to put our faith in Him for all our needs. Each and every step we take in life should be taken with these truths in mind:

Prov 16:1 The preparations of the heart in man, and the answer of the tongue, is from the LORD.

Isa 26:12 O Jehovah, Thou appointest peace to us, For, all our works also Thou hast wrought for us.

Prov 20:24 Man's goings are of the LORD; how can a man then understand his own way?

Isa 26:12 O Jehovah, Thou appointest peace to us, For, all our works also Thou hast wrought for us.

Isa 44:18 They have not known nor understood: for he hath shut their eyes, that they cannot see; and their hearts, that they cannot understand.

Isa 64:8 But now, O LORD, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand.

Jer 10:23 I know, Jehovah, that the way of man is not his own; it is not in a man that walketh to direct his steps.

When a person repents, it happens because of the work of Christ within that person. When they accept Christ as Lord, it happens because of the work of Christ within that person.

Look at this verse:

1 Cor 12:3 Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Spirit.

What this verse says is quite profound. Do you believe it?

Our salvation only happens by the work of Christ within us. When Christ has decided to call a person out from the world, He will give them the Early Rain of the Spirit - just like He did Paul on the Damascus Road. In our spiritually marred condition, we cannot understand God nor will we seek Him out. Christ must come to us FIRST and give us His free gift of the Holy Spirit. Only then can anyone call Jesus "Lord". When Christ comes and gives us this gift, He does so solely because of His GRACE. He does not wait for us to repent. He does not wait for us to ask Him to come. He does not even ask us for permission to give us this gift. We have no part to play as you suggest. If He waited on us to act, no one would ever accept Him as Lord and be saved.

When a person believes that they played some part in their own salvation, they have mixed in Works with Faith. They will then believe that they have something to boast about, though most won't admit it. They must believe that they are smarter, wiser, or just not as evil as someone who rejects Christ. This belief is the sin that leads to death. We cannot serve two masters (Satan/Christ).

These truths which I have presented above are part of the milk of the Word. Most believers have no understanding of the importance of Faith vs. Works. The Old Covenant is man's works. The New Covenant is Christ's works. Our carnal nature PREFERS to believe in man's work. It teaches us that we "must do our part". Until Christ comes with the Latter Rain, all Early Rain believers will commit this sin of believing that we "must do our part" (Doctrine of Free Will). Once we commit this sin, we cannot be renewed to God by repentance. The only solution is for Christ to come to us with His gift of the Latter Rain. Man's salvation is 100% reliant on Christ doing His work within us and changing our hearts and minds. We have no say in the matter when He does this work. And He only does His work because of His GRACE. No man has anything to boast about.

Joe

Dear B____,

Concerning Eph 1 (and all the other verses you sent in separate posts) which you quoted, yes, we must believe in Christ to be saved but that only happens when Christ gives us His spiritual gifts. Scripture frequently tells us to do something that we can't do. When we do it, we must have faith and believe that Christ is the cause of us doing it. He gets the credit because it was His work within us. These verses you quoted don't address that point.

Truth is given to us in bits and pieces that must be assembled in order to understand the whole truth.

Isa 28: 10-12 For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little: 11 For with stammering lips and another language will he speak to this people. 12 But the word of the LORD was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little; that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken.

Psa 119:160 The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever.

Christ teaches His truth to us in this manner and in His spiritual language (another tongue) so that mankind CANNOT understand His truth. He does this so that, shortly after being called out from the world, we will fall backward (same as falling away) and be Broken (lose our salvation). Committing the sin of mixing works with faith is the cause of our being broken. Christ has established a Pathway to Salvation. It is long and takes a great deal of time.

If Christ chooses to call a person to come out from the world, He will come to them and give them the Early Rain. This is not the Baptism of the Spirit. It is only a small amount of the Spirit and will leave the new believer spiritually blind and carnally minded.

Satan then comes to us and deceives us. We readily accept His lies so we begin mixing Works with Faith. This is the point when we lose our salvation and become "worse than the first" (**Mat 12:43-45**).

If Christ has chosen us to be saved in this age as a First Fruit of His harvest, He will come to us a second time and give us the Latter Rain. At this point, our spiritual blindness is healed and we can then see the Man of Sin and the Abomination of Desolation. We are that Man of Sin and we are the one who has committed the Abomination of Desolation (caused by mixing Works with Faith and believing Satan over Christ).

This portion of the Pathway to Salvation is part of the GREAT MYSTERY of Christ and His church. Its core teaching is the Early and Latter Rain of the Spirit. Christ gives us no choice in the matter as to whether or not we follow the pathway. We will all follow it if He has chosen to save us in this age. It is a very humbling experience when we look back and see how lacking we were before we were converted.

Our salvation is 100% the work of Christ and He only completes this work in this age to those who have been chosen from the foundation of the world. Mankind's supposed Free Will plays no part in it.

I could have presented many, many scriptures to support what I have stated. I have presented many of them before in this thread but no one has been able to accept them. Christ must heal our spiritual blindness before we can receive His truth. If He does not heal our blindness, no amount of Free Will choices are ever going to make someone understand and accept His truth.

I will end this post by showing the scriptures where Christ says we need the Latter Rain in order to "see". Only Christ can give us "eyes that can see". We are not born with them.

Here they are:

Mark 8:15-21 And he charged them, saying, Take heed, beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, and of the leaven of Herod. 16 And they reasoned among themselves, saying, It is because we have no bread. 17 And when Jesus knew it, he saith unto them, Why reason ye, because ye have no bread? perceive ye not yet, neither understand? have ye your heart yet hardened? 18 Having eyes, see ye not? and having ears, hear ye not? and do ye not remember? 19 When I brake the five loaves among five thousand, how many baskets full of fragments took ye up? They say unto him, Twelve. 20 And when the seven among four thousand, how many baskets full of fragments took ye up? And they said, Seven. 21 And he said unto them, How is it that ye do not understand?

In these verses, Christ is giving His disciples a lesson on spiritual language - His language. At this point in time (before Pentecost), the disciples have not received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit (Latter Rain) and were spiritually blind. They simply could not understand what Christ was teaching them. After Christ's short lesson, He ends it by asking them this question: "How is it that ye do not understand"? No response from the Apostles is recorded in scripture. However, Christ answers His own question in the very next four verses.

Mark 8:22-25 And he cometh to Bethsaida; and they bring a blind man unto him, and besought him to touch him. 23 And he took the blind man by the hand, and led him out of the town; and when he had spit on his eyes, and put his hands upon him, he asked him if he saw ought. 24 And he looked up, and said, I see men as trees, walking. 25 After that he put his hands again upon his eyes, and made him look up: and he was restored, and saw every man clearly.

Since Christ is the Word of God, He teaches us not only through His words which are recorded in scripture but also by the things He did. In answering the question that He proposed to the disciples in verse 21, He goes to Bethsaida and gives us His answer in "type" by healing a blind man. This type is the same type which Christ uses with the Old Testament events to teach His spiritual truths.

In verses 23, Christ leads a blind man out of the city. Once outside the city, Christ places spit on his eyes and touches him with His hands. These actions occur as the blind man is looking down which symbolizes the carnal aspect of His healing. The Spit (water) symbolizes the blind man receiving the Early Rain of the Spirit with its accompanying vision (understanding). This is the same time when an unbeliever is called out from the world and becomes a Christian. After Christ asks him what he could see, the blind man looks up and says that he could see men walking as trees. Walking as Trees is a spiritual symbol for Called Out believers of which the blind man is now one. The man's blindness was not total any longer but he was still very near-sighted. This FIRST healing of the blind man reflects our spiritual condition when we first enter the Church. At that time, we are left carnally minded and spiritually near-sighted.

Peter says this condition is the same as being blind:

2Pet 1:9 But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.

In the final verse of the story, Christ lays His hands upon the man's eyes again but this time, Christ has the man look up. This second healing represents the Latter Rain of the Spirit (second coming of Christ) when true spiritual vision is given to the believer. The man's upward gaze represents this spiritual aspect of the healing in contrast to the carnal aspect when the blind man was looking down at the earth. From that moment onward, we know that the blind man is a "type" for a called and chosen believer.

Joe

Dear B____,

Eph 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

Everything comes from God. Faith is a gift, the Holy Spirit is a gift, spiritual understanding is a gift, etc. When all the gifts are combined, the end result is salvation, which is the ultimate gift. Without all the necessary gifts from God, salvation would not be possible. We would die in our sins.

You claim that we "must do our part" but we have no part to do. Your belief creates "self-righteousness" in a person. Your beliefs justify in your own mind, why you are saved and others will never be. But the truth is, none of us are any different from any other person. We are all sinners who are spiritually marred and carnally minded. We were created with no faith of our own or ability to understand or seek God. It is only because of the Grace of God, which is manifested in Christ, that anyone is ever saved. Christ will come to all mankind someday and give us all the necessary gifts that will produce our salvation. No one has anything to boast about. In this present age, Christ is only coming to and giving the necessary gifts to those who have been chosen from the foundation of the world. He is doing His work within them FIRST and for that reason, they are called "First Fruits". They are the heirs and will have life in the Kingdom of Heaven during the ages. They are not special but they are blessed so as to satisfy the purposes of God. In the end, all mankind will be saved because it is God's "will" for it to be so. He will come to all mankind at a time He has chosen and He will give them the same gifts that produced salvation in His First Fruits.

John 12:32 And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.

John 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Christ was "lifted up from the earth". As a result, all mankind will be drawn to Him and they will be raised up at the last day. No one is left out. This prophecy will be testified as being true in "due time".

1 Tim 2:3-6 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

Christ even spoke this truth to the Chief priests and scribes below:

Matt 21:31 Which of the two was obeying his father?" They replied, "The first, of course." Then Jesus explained his meaning: "I assure you, corrupt tax collectors and prostitutes will get into the Kingdom of God before you do.

Even the people responsible for crucifying Christ will be saved by the end of the final age. If the Doctrine of Hell were true, this would have been the perfect time for Christ to teach it. But it is not true and it is not taught anywhere in scripture. Salvation is certain for all mankind, only the timing of it will vary. As for the Nation of Israel, they will have to wait until the "fullness of the Gentiles come in" before Christ will give them the necessary gifts for their salvation. The first will be last, and the last will be first.

Joe