

## JUSTIFIED BY WORKS?

There are two basic extremes in the religious world today. One extreme says we are justified totally by our own works and the opposite extreme says that we are justified totally by God's grace apart from any works we might ever perform. In the middle of these two extremes may be found the truth.

- I. All Grace / No Works belief acknowledges no responsibility of man.
  - A. Man does not have to obey. Maintains no law. (ex. New Hermeneutic)
  - B. Man has no responsibility.
  - C. Leads one to question the necessity for the scriptures.
  - D. Ultimately results in rebellion.
  
- II. All Works / No Grace belief acknowledges no responsibility of God.
  - A. To be valid view man must live perfectly.
  - B. Views holds that man can merit his own salvation. Elevates man.
  - C. Disregards the necessity for God's grace and the blood of Jesus.
  - D. Ultimately results in rebellion against God's love and grace.
  
- III. Both extremes are false and ultimately lead to rebellion.
  
- IV. What do the scriptures say about Grace and Works?
  - A. Says we are Saved by Grace. Eph 2:8-9
  - B. Says we are Saved by Works. Jas 2:20
  - C. Do scriptures conflict and contradict?
  
- V. Two types of works mentioned in the scriptures. note: Rom 10:1-3
  - A. Works of man's righteousness. Eph 2:9,
    1. works we perform whereby we try to merit God's mercy.
    2. works we make up that God doesn't command.
    3. works that make us boast or that we boast of.
      - a. man does not deserve salvation. Rom 5:6-7
      - b. we can never earn our salvation. Heb 2:9
      - c. a case of works of man's righteousness. Lk 18:9-12
      - d. God implemented redemption before man was created. II Tim 1:9
      - e. man cannot boast for he played no role in God's grace. Tit 3:5
  - B. Works of God's righteousness.
    1. works we perform out of love for His commands.
    2. man does have some responsibility. Acts 2:40
    3. must work out own salvation. Php 2:12, Acts 10:34
    4. do these works but not because are trying to merit God's grace.
  
- VI. Abraham as an example of our point.
  - A. Not justified by works of his own righteousness. Rom 4:1-2
  - B. Was justified by works of God's righteousness. Jas 2:20-21
  
- VII. Works make faith complete. Jas 2:21
  - A. Works are needed to please God.
  - B. Must work for God. I Cor 15:58
  - C. Even faith is a work of God. Jn 6:28-29
  
- VIII. Issue is not all works vs. no works; but works included vs. excluded.
  - A. God requires works He commands. But we can never merit salvation.
  - B. God does not want works of man's righteousness.