

Article Title— **“Saved by Faith...But What of Works?”**Article Category— **Practical Christianity**www.Link1.info

Guest Scribe

The following article by my Facebook friend, Jim Beatty, was published by *Pathway Christian Newspaper* in its March, 2018 edition. It is shared, here, for your edification by written permission.

Remember the story of David and Goliath? David, a young shepherd went after Goliath without armor, without even a sword, but only a sling, some stones and his faith in God. This obviously shows David's unyielding faith in God, but it also shows that David was willing to back up his faith with his works.

Ephesians 2:8,9 is very clear in telling us that we are saved by grace through faith, not of ourselves. However James, at Chapter 2:14-26, tells us that faith without works is dead. These seem to be opposite, yet both are true. Let's look to scripture in order to understand how that can be.

Yes, we are saved by the gift of God's grace and it is grace because we don't deserve it. Our works then demonstrate or prove that faith and that's how James can say without works to confirm our faith, there really is no faith...the faith is dead.

What sort of faith would David have if he just said, "Look, you guys all know that I believe in God, I can quote scripture like nobody's business and my sermon last week knocked everyone's socks off...but fight Goliath? Me? Let's send someone else instead and I'll pray for him!"?

Jesus tells us at Matthew 7:21 that not everyone who says, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who DOES THE WILL of my Father who is in heaven.

So many passages throughout the Bible tell us we will be judged of our works. Ecclesiastes 12:14 says "For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil." Revelation 2:23 says each one will be repaid according to their deeds, Paul explains that again at Romans 2:6-12, at 2 Corinthians 2:5 and in many other places in the Bible.

When Jesus saved the adulteress from the stoning she deserved under the Law, did He tell her, "Ok, I saved you now you can go and continue your sinful life in peace" or did He say, "Go and sin no more!"? (John 8:3-11)

Just what then are these works of good and evil? Galatians 5:19-21 lists sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. Paul repeated his earlier warning that those who do such things WILL NOT INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF GOD. Notice that he says those who do "such things." That's his indication that this is not an all-inclusive list.

If I may insert my own personal plea, if you are a professed Christian and are still doing these things, please stop doing them—not for me but for your salvation through God's grace. Seek guidance from your pastor, read and study your Bible, find a support group or seek professional help if you must, but stop doing these things, as God does not "wink" at sin!

Back to the subject: At Galatians 5:22-23 Paul lists the fruits of the Spirit as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. We know that Jesus said the two greatest commands are to Love God and to Love Thy Neighbor, but please note that He didn't say these are the ONLY commands we need to follow, He said that the REST of His commands *hang* on these.

The passage of Matthew 25, starting at verse 31 is that those who give Him food, drink, welcome, clothing, companionship in sickness and even visit Him in prison will be counted amongst the sheep. They are blessed by the Father and will inherit the kingdom prepared for us from the foundation of the world. When asked, He explained to the disciples that as we have done for the lowest of men, so we have done for Him. The ones who don't do these things are counted with the goats, and their eternity will be...well, different.

At Matthew 6:15, Jesus tells us if we don't forgive, we won't be forgiven and there are other works commanded by Christ throughout the New Testament that we must obey—too many to list here. Yes, these works hang on the commands of Love God and Love Thy Neighbor, but what if someone loved everyone but didn't DO these things?


We are saved by the grace of God through our faith, but simply believing isn't enough. We still must walk the walk.

I was a successful Bible teacher for a LOT of years—big sanctuary classes.
I knew what my denomination believed and that's what I taught.
Yes, I should've checked it out to make sure it was true.

So why didn't I do that? Well, maybe I didn't do that for the same reason that you haven't really checked out what your denomination teaches.
"In religion and politics, people's beliefs and convictions are in almost every case gotten at second hand, and without examination." —Samuel Clemens




Many thanks to Mr. Beatty for sharing his Godly wisdom with us!
Thank you, also, to *Pathway Christian Newspaper* for granting us
permission to re-publish the article.

—T. C. Newsome 

PS: Comments? Questions? Scriptural rebuttals? They're all welcome! www.Link1.info/contact-us.

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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/136708110091989/>

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