

From: NeilUher2@yahoo.com
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Subject: Please Him - Heb. 11:6

Page 1 of 9

"But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him." Hebrews 11:6

There is a gospel gaining acceptance which seeks to content people to neglect their salvation and to just do "good works" until God saves ~~them~~ ^{them}. Such a gospel waters down the depravity of mankind by teaching that unsaved mankind can please God; whereas the bible is absolutely clear that this cannot be: "So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God." (Rom. 8:8). "There is none that does good, no, not one." (Rom. 3:12). "But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags;" (Isa. 64:6).

The problem lies not with the "good works" themselves; but with the heart which does them. Natural man reasons thus, "If I give my money to feed the poor, I do a good work." On the one hand this is true and many poor people could benefit from such giving;

on the other hand,

however, God looks not at our outward actions which easily impress other men, but at the ~~see~~ very heart itself.

~~And~~ "And the Pharisees also, who were covetous, heard all these things: and they derided Him. And He said unto them, Ye are they who justify yourselves before men; but God knows your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God." Luke 16:14-15

The condition of our heart makes all of the difference; but if someone is unsaved, all of their "good works" are entirely sinful to God, "The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD... The way of the wicked is an abomination unto the LORD... The thoughts of the wicked are an abomination to the LORD... The LORD is far from the wicked: but He hears the prayer of the righteous." (Prov. 15:8, 9, 26, 29).

There is no gray area concerning our works before God; the issue is either black or white. Either we are unsaved and so

all of our actions are sinful in God's sight; or we are saved and so all our actions are righteous in God's sight (although it is only because we have the righteousness of Christ accounted to us; ~~although~~ ^{and} our sins can bring us under our Father's displeasure).

False apostles seek to set their followers under the law and keep them from the "key of knowledge", which is saving faith in Jesus Christ. These poor people live everyday of their life tormented by their own consciences - not the false apostles, but their followers. These same false apostles do not tell others to trust in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of their sins; rather, they bring them under a works gospel, are told to "beg God for mercy" (or similiar statements), and to "please" God by their obedience to His Word.

"But without faith it is impossible to please Him . . ." Heb. 11:6

He writes, "Without faith," that is, without saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ which is produced by the Holy Spirit (see John 3:1-8; Gal. 5:22 etc.), he goes on to say, "it is impossible to please Him." Meaning that before we ever think of pleasing God, we must have faith first.

The Bible opposes faith and works; faith (i.e. true faith) is trusting in Christ's works and not in our own. Either we are trusting in Christ's works, or in our own works.

Faith is like a horse and works are like a cart. Just as the horse must go before the cart, so faith must go before our works. The bible teaches for us to trust in Christ for the forgiveness of our sins and good works will follow (Gal. 5:22-23; John 15:5; James 2:14 ff.)

A works gospel teaches people to do good works first, and then faith will follow; but this isn't the Gospel of the bible, and

continuing our illustration, it puts the cart before the horse; but horses are ~~not~~ designed to pull the cart, not push it. What do you get when the horse pushes the cart...? A horse with a stiff neck. So is everyone who seeks to be justified by the law and resists the Holy Spirit.

"Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Spirit: as your fathers did, so do ye." Acts 7:51

The main purpose of the law is to ~~convince~~ convince us of our sin and guilt before God so that we will flee to the only Saviour in the ~~world~~ world, Jesus Christ, by faith alone, in Him alone, for forgiveness of our sins.

Do you remember reading about Naaman the captain of Syria in 2 Kings 5? Well he had leprosy and went to Elisha to get healed. Well Elisha sent a messenger down to tell Naaman to "Go and wash in

Jordan seven times, and thy flesh shall come again to thee, and thou shalt be clean." (2 Kings 5:10). Do you remember what happened next? That's right, Naaman became offended, he ~~is~~ was expecting Elisha to come out and perform some fantastic miracle...

People get the same idea about salvation today; and more than that, they expect that they must do something to ~~earn~~ earn it. "I won't steal anymore... I won't lie anymore... I won't lust anymore... I won't get drunk anymore... I won't [you name it]"

You can forsake all of these and it won't help you become saved one bit. "For without faith it is impossible to please Him." Instead, what you should do, really, all you can do, is get honest with yourself before God, confess your own sinfulness, worthlessness, and guilt; and trust in the Son of God - Jesus Christ - for the forgiveness of your sins.

In John 10:9 Jesus said,

"I am the door: by Me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture."

There is only one way in, and Jesus points to Himself as that way. "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man comes unto the Father, but by Me." (Jn. 14:6).

Therefore if you are not truly trusting in Jesus for the forgiveness of your sins, you have not entered the door. The Bible says that, "God is angry with the wicked every day" (Ps. 7:11) and in Psalm 119:155 we read "Salvation is far from the wicked." Don't settle for anything less, than Jesus Christ and His righteousness. If you are yet unsaved, don't fall prey to the false gospels concocted by these false apostles who thrive on your miseries and on your dependance upon them, and their "necessary" doctrines which "God's elect must know." Focus the retina of your heart

upon the doctrine of doctrines - Jesus Christ and Him crucified for your sins. Will you do that my dear friend?

Suppose you have become familiar with the Bible for many years yet have become entangled in a works gospel - go back! Go back to the beginning and get on the right way, and enter that door, that Strait (i.e. narrow) gate.

"Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leads to destruction, and many there be who go in thereat: because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leads unto life, and few there be that find it." Matthew 7:13-14

I know what it is to be in a works gospel, so I am reaching out to those who still are. My heart goes out to you for you serve a rigid taskmaster - the law is that rigid taskmaster; but

you don't have to continue down that ~~"broad"~~ "broad" way. Shake off the works of the law and repent of your foolishness and trust in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. You will probably lose some "friends"; but they don't really care for you anyway, they desire to keep you from others so you only love them (see Gal. 3:17).

Let's be rid of these false gospels and find that sweet rest in Jesus Christ. In this world, we either seek to please God, or we seek to please man... what you do from here, shows who you really love.

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Any questions, comments, or concerns please write.
Your servant for Jesus' sake,
Rev. F. Ahern