

Why Salvation is Free

Salvation is free because it is impossible that it should be otherwise. Salvation is two-fold, first from sin and then from sinning. We must be saved from the penalty of sins already committed, "sins that are past," and we must be saved from committing sin, for "whoso committeth sin is of the devil."

The first phase of this free salvation is presented in Romans 3:24 and 25. American Revised.

"Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus; whom God set forth to be a propitiation, through faith in his blood, to show his righteousness because of the passing over of the sins done aforetime, in the forbearance of God."

There is a curse pronounced upon all transgressors of divine law. Gal. 3:10; Deut. 27:26. No future obedience can cancel that curse. It must be suffered. But for man to suffer it is for man to perish. Free salvation from sins that are past can only be found in the curse-bearing death of Christ. "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree." Gal. 3:13.

It was impossible for man to redeem himself from the curse of the violated law. Only Christ could bear the curse and live again. It

was therefore necessary for Christ to do it for man if he is to be redeemed. So Christ bore the curse for man, bore it without asking man if he wanted Him to bear it for him; bore it for him FREE.

God knew that if He saved man from the curse of the violated law, HE would have to save him, for he could not save himself; and He must save him FREE, for man could never pay for his salvation. God knew all this before man fell. Listen:

"Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to **our works**, but according to **his own purpose and grace** which was GIVEN US in Christ Jesus **before the world began.**" 2 Tim. 1:9.

Listen again:

"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." Eph. 2:8, 9.

And now since salvation from the curse of the law is an accomplished fact in Christ, and since this salvation is offered to the sinner FREE, as God's free GIFT to man; and since man cannot pay for it, and God does not want him to try to pay for the gift, why not accept it as God's free gift and be glad?

How? By faith. How by faith? By faith in God's Word. "Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God." Rom. 10:17.

Therefore faith cometh by hearing the Word

of God. God's Word says He has given us salvation from sin through Jesus Christ as a free gift of His grace; and that He does not want us to try to earn it by good works ("not of works lest any man should boast") but accept it as His free gift. Faith says, "I believe God has saved me by His grace without any good works of mine. I believe He gives me this salvation as an out and out GIFT. I accept the gift: I am redeemed. I am saved! Glory to His name, and I will tell of His goodness and talk of His power."

"With the heart man believeth unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." Rom. 10:10.

Now that it is plain that salvation from sin is free, let us see that salvation from **sinning** is just as free. God knew that to save us from sins that are past, and then leave us to go on sinning would not be complete salvation. It would leave us the slave of the devil.

"He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil." 1 Jno. 3:8.

We can no more save ourselves from **sinning** than we could save ourselves from the curse of sins already committed. God knew this from the beginning, and never expected us to save ourselves from sinning. He did not want us to try, only long enough to find out that we could not, and then cry out in our helpless

failure, "O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death." Rom. 7:24.

The reason why man cannot of himself stop sinning is because men are carnal by nature, and "because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So that they that are in the flesh cannot please God." Rom. 8:7,8.

They may try as hard as they can, but they are doomed to failure. The carnal mind cannot obey God's law any more than the thistle can bear figs. The carnal mind has to be killed. And this is the way it is done:

"But ye are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ he is none of his. And if Christ be in you the body (the carnal mind) is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness." Rom. 7:9, 10.

What does this wonderful saving operation cost? Nothing! It is absolutely free. God is waiting for men to accept this gift of life as another gift of His grace.

"If ye then being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him." Luke 11:13.

Thank the Lord, HE has nothing to sell. He is not one of the profiteers. He has everything to give away, but nothing to sell. He is made to rejoice when needy men and women

come to Him to receive His gifts, but He is much displeased when they try to buy His gifts. A man once tried to buy God's gift of the Spirit and received this terrible rebuke:

"Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the GIFT of God may be purchased with money." Acts 8:20.

The gift of spiritual life, like the gift of pardon, is received by faith. "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law* * * that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith." Gal. 3:13, 14.

We therefore conclude that salvation is free because man cannot save himself nor pay the Lord for saving him; and because God does nothing for pay, but performs all His wonderful saving free. And "whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." "I'm glad salvation's free."

Then are there no good works connected with salvation? Yes, plenty of them. And if good works do not appear, man's claim to salvation is a fraud.

"In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil; whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother." 1 Jno. 3:10.

"He that saith I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him." 1 Jno. 2:4.

"For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments, and his commandments are not grievous." 1 Jno. 5:3.

Good works are the **fruits** of salvation, not the **foundation**. As the **foundation** of salvation, God regards them as filthy rags. As the **fruit** of salvation they are a glory to God. "Herein is my Father **glorified**, that ye bear much fruit." Jno. 15:8.

"Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Matt. 2:16.

Why Salvation Is By Faith

Salvation is by faith because it is the **gift** of God's **grace**.

"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." Eph. 2:8, 9.

If salvation was accomplished by man's work, by man's law-keeping, the words "grace," "gift" and "faith" would never be used in the Bible to describe the way of salvation. But since salvation is the free gift of God, the Bible is full of exhortation to accept salvation by faith as the gift of God's grace.

First of all man needs to be saved from the curse of the law, the curse pronounced upon all who transgress the law. And that curse is death under the condemning judgment of the law. Rom.5:16-19. But "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us; for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree." Gal. 3:13.

Since Christ hath redeemed us from the

curse of the law, we are redeemed, aren't we? And for us to attempt to redeem ourselves when Christ has already redeemed us, is to discredit and reject His divine redemption and attempt to substitute our human efforts in its place.

What then should the sinner do? Just believe that he is redeemed. May a sinner who has been a sinner all his life who perchance may be reading these words, may he here and now by faith, without seeing or feeling any change, just believe he is redeemed? Yes, right now. And what is more, it would please the Lord. "Without faith it is impossible to please him." Heb. 11:6. Faith pleases the Lord. Then why not believe Him and please Him?

The sinner is redeemed whether he believes or not. Faith only takes that which is already his in Christ's redemption.

"We trust in the living God who is the Savior of all men, especially of those that believe." 1 Tim. 4:10.

There is a general or "common salvation" which includes all men, and there is a special salvation for those who believe. The general salvation will avail nothing to the man who refuses to believe. Why not believe the general salvation and thereby experience the special salvation?

One reason why salvation is by faith, is that the saving works are finished. Since Christ alone could do the saving works, and

since He wanted to do them and promised to do them, and did them and they are done, "it is finished"; no sinner either before the cross or since need try to earn salvation by his works.

I wish I had known this blessed gospel truth 40 years ago. But I was taught that I must not say I was "saved," and that in the face of such scriptures as these: "Unto us which are saved" (1 Cor. 1:18); "Who hath saved us" (2 Tim. 1:9); "But according to His Mercy He saved us" (Titus 3:5); "By grace ye are saved" (Eph. 2:5).

Yes, thank the Lord, He is the Savior of all men; and "all men" includes "the chief of sinners." And faith takes this salvation and applies it personally, and testifies to it.

"For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto Salvation." Rom. 10:10.

But don't you believe in any joyful feeling in religion? Indeed I do, but that joy must be the fruit and not the foundation of faith. The man who is building his salvation on his feelings, is building on shifting sand. Paul puts the peace and joy in the right place.

"Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing." Rom 15:10.

If God should give men joy and peace outside of believing, they would then be peaceful and joyful unbelievers. That would never do. No, God's peace and joy is only "in believing."

But don't you believe in good works? Don't you believe that the saved man will keep the

"commandments of God"? O, certainly! The plan of salvation has for its finished product a lawbreaker transformed into one in whom law is fulfilled.

"For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: that the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us who walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit." Rom. 8:4, 5.

The remnant saints are commandment keepers and for this cause they are hated by the dragon.

"And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed which keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ." Rev. 12:17.

And the third angel's message closes its world-wide warning against the worship of the beast and his image by pointing to this same remnant and saying:

"Here is the patience of the saints; here are they that keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus." Rev. 14:12.

But good works—commandment keeping—are not the foundation of salvation, but its fruit. Neither works nor commandment keeping having anything to do with paying for salvation; that is paid. Good works are the saved man's fruits. Commandment keeping is the outflowing of the love of God in the saved

man's heart for Him who first loved us. "We love him because he first loved us." "For this is the love of God that we keep his commandments; and his commandments are not grievous." 1 Jno 4:19 and 5:3.

What men need is that "faith that worketh by love" (Gal. 5:6) and produces that "work of faith and labor of love" which Paul commended. 1 Thess. 1:3.

And now let all remember that salvation is by faith because Christ has finished the saving works and asks sinful men, not to go about "to establish their own righteousness" as did the Jews, but by simple faith submit "themselves unto the righteousness of God." Rom. 10:3.

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