

What *kind* of
FAITH

is required for

Salvation?

It is the gift of God: *not of works, lest any man should boast.*" But those who quote this text so freely to teach the doctrine of "no works," never tell you that the same inspired Scriptures say also: "What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have *not works*? can faith save him? . . . Even so FAITH, if it *hath not works*, IS DEAD, being alone . . . I will show thee my faith BY my works. Thou BELIEVEST that there is one God; thou doest well: *the devils also believe, AND tremble.* But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith *without works IS DEAD.*" (James 2:14-20)

There is no contradiction here!

Rather, by putting all the Scriptures on the subject of "Saving Faith" together, we learn that there are TWO KINDS of faith. And the kind so blindly trusted in by the majority of this day is nothing but a DEAD faith—and a DEAD faith *never will save one soul!* Notice! Jas. 2:20, "Faith *without works is DEAD*"—just a DEAD faith. James continues: "Was not Abraham our father JUSTIFIED by works, when he offered Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how FAITH wrought *with his works*, and BY WORKS that BY WORKS A MAN IS JUSTIFIED, and not by faith only?" (James 2:21-24). Then are we saved by works *instead of faith*? No, NEVER! We are saved by FAITH! But faith wrought *with our works*, our FAITH IS MADE PERFECT! That is LIVING FAITH!

Why do we even need salvation? Because we have SINNED, and the penalty of sin is DEATH! But *how* have we sinned? What IS sin, any how? "Sin is the transgression of THE LAW," is God's answer (1 John 3:4).

"Yes," answers the victim of modern fables, "But we are not under the law today, but UNDER GRACE!" Why certainly! "What then?" asks the inspired Paul, "shall we SIN—(transgress the LAW)—because we are not under the law but under grace?" And Paul's answer is, "GOD FORBID!" (Rom. 6:15). And again, "shall we continue in SIN"—(transgressing the law)—"That grace may abound? GOD FORBID! How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?" (Romans 6:1-2)

The law has a penalty—DEATH. It claims the life of the one who transgresses it. The law has power to take the life of the transgressor. It therefore is more powerful than the sinner—and is OVER the sinner, holding a claim on his life. It is the SINNER who is UNDER the

God's Spiritual Mirror

Let us understand it! "By the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in His sight." No, certainly not! That Scripture is 100% true, and there is no contradiction! You cannot be justified BY the deeds of the law—not at all!

WHY? The last half of this same verse gives the answer—why do most preachers never quote it? "For by the law is the KNOWLEDGE of sin" (Rom. 3:20). THAT'S WHY!

The purpose of the law is not to forgive, to justify, to wash away, to cleanse. Only THE BLOOD OF CHRIST can do that! Sin is the transgression of the law—that's what sin IS. The purpose of the law is to tell us what sin is—to define it—to REVEAL it, so we can quit it.

All women ought to understand this. In every woman's handbag is a little mirror. She knows what it is for. Every little while she takes out this mirror and steals a glance at her face. Sometimes it reveals a speck of dirt. And we might truthfully say, "by the use of these mirrors are no dirty faces washed clean." You women understand what we mean! But do you throw your mirrors away because *by them* your faces are not washed? Of course not—what a silly question it seems, when applied to a MATERIAL case! And if we ask you WHY your faces are not washed clean by your mirrors, you answer: "Because by the mirror comes the KNOWLEDGE OF THE DIRTY."

God's LAW is His spiritual mirror. We look into it, and see the dirt on our hearts! But by looking at the law, or keeping it, no dirt is WASHED from our hearts—only Christ's BLOOD can do that. By the law comes the KNOWLEDGE OF SIN!

Listen to James explain it! "But be ye DOERS of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: for he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso

How absurd! Yet this is the popular conception today!

The Law is Eternal

God's Law is not a horrible monster! Just and right laws are a terror only to the criminal—

they are made to PROTECT the good! God's law is PERFECT (Psalm 19:7), it is a SPIRITUAL law, (Rom. 7:14), HOLY, and just, and good (Rom. 7:12). ALL His commandments are

SURE, and stand fast FOREVER AND EVER (Psalm 111:7-8). Don't you believe it, when men tell you differently!

God's Law is, simply, LOVE! It is the perfect way of life. Every particle of human suffering, unhappiness, misery and death has come solely from its transgression! It was given to make man HAPPY, and is the only philosophy of life that can do so! It came from a God of LOVE, and LOVE is the fulfillment of the law!

But not YOUR own natural love! It requires the love of GOD, shed abroad in our hearts BY THE HOLY GHOST." (Rom. 5:5). God has, and will give you the love that will fulfill His law. And so, praise His blessed Name!—it is possible, through FAITH, and the GIFT of God's Holy Spirit, for man to keep His Commandments!

And whoever claims differently, God calls a plain LIAR (1 John 2:4).

The true Commandment-keeper is forced to trust God to make obedience possible. And thus faith does not void, but *establishes* the Law! And to keep the law requires FAITH!

A thrilling example of this eternal truth is recorded in the Book of Daniel. Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, erected a great golden image. "Then an herald cried aloud, To you it is commanded, O people, nations, and languages," that at the time ye hear the sound of the band, "ye fall down and worship the golden image" (Dan. 3:4-5). "And whoso falleth not down and worshipeth shall the same hour be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace." (Verse 6).

Set over the affairs of the province of Babylon were Daniel's three young Jewish friends, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. One of the Commandments of God's eternal spiritual law forbids such worship of images.

Had you been in their place, what would YOU have done? Would you not have said, "Well, I have to bow down to this image—I have to do it or be killed!" And perhaps you would have excused yourself by reasoning thus: "I don't think God would be fair if He punished me for this, when He knows I am FORCED to do it. Anyway, He tells us to be subject to the power

of the power

looketh into perfect LAW of liberty, and *confineth therein*, he being not a forgetful hearer but a DOER of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed" (James 1:22-25).

Is It Possible to Keep the Law?

But argues the "no law" deceiver, "no man can keep the Commandments. It is not humanly possible. Since FAITH has come, we keep no law—faith has made it VOID."

Thus even "Satan himself is transferred into an angel of LIGHT. Therefore it is no great thing if HIS MINISTERS also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness—For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of CHRIST" (II Cor. 11:13-15).

"Do we then make void the law through faith?" comes the question, in inspired Scripture—and the answer: "GOD FORBID: yea, we ESTABLISH THE LAW!" (Rom. 3:31).

Yes, faith *establishes* the Law! By keeping it is faith made PERFECT!

Yet, can we keep the Commandments? Is it possible? Satan's "No Law" deceivers say NO!

What is the PLAIN TRUTH?

A man came to Jesus and asked how to be saved. The Saviour Himself replied, "If thou wilt enter into life, KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS" (Mat. 19:17). "When his disciples heard it, they were exceedingly amazed, saying, Who then can be saved? But Jesus beheld them and said unto them, 'With men this is impossible; but with God, all things are possible'" (Verses 25-26).

There is Christ's own answer! With men it IS impossible—utterly impossible to really KEEP His Commandments. But—here's the blessed truth—WITH GOD, it is possible, even to keep IT!

Commandments. Do you begin to see it? IT TAKES FAITH! Faith in the power of GOD! And, just as your own diligent effort coupled with faith makes faith perfect, so faith coupled with your effort makes PERFECT OBEDIENCE! The two go hand in hand. And you cannot have the one, without the other!

A LIVING FAITH—the only kind that will SAVE—is an *active* faith—one that TRUSTS GOD to make it possible to OBEY HIM—to live the true Christian life—to KEEP His blessed Commandments!

Think! Could a just God command men to do what it is IMPOSSIBLE to do? Or can we conceive of Jesus as a smart-aleck young man who knew more than His FATHER, and who did away with His Father's COMMANDMENTS?

of the state!" Yes, it is easy to use reason to excuse disobedience to God. But God is not looking for chances to punish us—but rather for opportunities to **SAVE** us thru faith! To save us from the folly of **SIN** and the sad consequence our own acts impose! Whatever we sow we shall reap. God's Law is intended to *protect* us from suffering. It is not **GOD** who punishes us when we do wrong, it is merely our own acts rebounding like a boomerang!

But these three young Jews knew the truth—that we should **OBEY GOD**, rather than men—that thru **FAITH** God makes it possible. When they firmly **REFUSED** to bow down to worship the king's image, Nebuchadnezzar in his rage and fury commanded them brought before him (Verse 13).

Listen to the quiet, trusting, unafraid answer of these lads. "O Nebuchadnezzar,—our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace!" (Verses 16-18)

Sometimes God *tries* our faith. He tried theirs. You might think He failed them, but He only permitted their faith to be tested.

"Then Nebuchadnezzar was full of fury, and the form of his visage was changed; . . . therefore he spoke, and commanded that they should heat the furnace one seven times more than it was wont to be heated.—Then these men were bound in their coats, their hosen, and their hats, and their other garments,—surely the God whom they trusted would have them released *now*? But no—there was no physical evidence whatever that God so much as heard!—"and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace!" (Verse 19-21)

The furnace was so hot the flames leaped out and "slew those men that took up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego." And they fell down "bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace!"

God permitted them actually to be thrown in! Was He unmindful of those who trusted in Him to make possible the keeping of His Commandments? Not God!

The king looked into the furnace, and said "lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of GOD!" (Verse 25). So Nebuchadnezzar came near the mouth of the furnace and called to them.

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego! ye servants of the most high God, come forth, and come hither! Then Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-

nego came forth of the midst of the fire. . . . these men, upon whose bodies the fire had no power, nor was an hair of their head singed, neither were their coats changed, nor the smell of fire had passed on them. Then Nebuchadnezzar spake and said, Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who hath sent His angel, and **DELIVERED** his servants that **TRUSTED IN HIM!**" (Verses 26-28)

THERE was an example of *living* **FAITH!** A faith that **TRUSTED** God to make it possible to live the way of His law! Yes, **WITH GOD**, it is possible to keep all His Commandments—and don't let any man deceive you to the contrary!

Can You Believe and Worship Christ in Vain?

When God's Word says, "BELIEVE on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved," it does not mean the **DEAD** faith now popularly taught! The common teachings of this day distort this to mean a mere belief in the **FACTS** of Christ's existence, His sacrifice, and His saving work. Just accept these **FACTS**, and accept **HIM**—without any obedience to God's Law! But the devils believe these things—and they **TREMBLE!** Christ was the Messenger of the New Covenant—a Messenger sent from God. You cannot **BELIEVE** on such a divine Messenger, unless you believe, and obey the **MESSAGE** that He brought! "If thou wilt enter into **LIFE**," was His teaching, "KEEP THE **COMMANDMENTS!**"

"REPENT," said the inspired Peter, and then believe and be baptised for the remission of sins, and "ye SHALL receive the gift of the Holy Ghost" (Acts 2:38). God gives His Holy Spirit only to them that **OBEY HIM** (Acts 5:32). And His Holy Spirit is the **LOVE** which God gives us to fulfill and to keep His Commandments! And it all comes **BY FAITH!**

Christ came to save us **FROM**, not in, our sins! To **FREE** us from the enslavement of sin and the unhappiness and wretchedness it brings—not to make us free to commit sin!

Is it possible to **BELIEVE** in Christ—to worship Him—in the customary manner of the day, and yet be lost? Christ Himself says, "YES!"

"Not every one that saith unto me, 'Lord! Lord!' shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that **DOETH** the will of my Father which is in heaven," He said (Matt. 7:21).
Hear Him again!

"Howbeit IN **VAIN** do they worship me,

teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men!" (Mark 7:7-8).

There it is! From Jesus' own lips! Such a dead faith—such worship—is IN VAIN! Those who trust in it, and in the men and denominations which teach it, ARE LOST! And the quicker we come to realize it, the better!

God's PURPOSE in salvation is to rescue men from SIN, and its resulting unhappiness, misery, and death! To REPENT of sin is the first step! Then the BLOOD OF CHRIST, upon acceptance and faith, cleanses of all past sins. And by FAITH we are kept from sin in the future. Thus the resulting righteousness is of FAITH—the righteousness imparted from God.

We are not justified BY THE LAW—we are justified by the blood of Jesus Christ! But this justification will be given only on Condition that we REPENT of our transgressions of God's Law—and so it is, after all, only the DOERS of the law that shall be JUSTIFIED (Rom. 2:13).

TRUTH!

How Plain, and how beautiful is God's

READ:

The PLAIN TRUTH, a magazine of understanding, explaining the true significance of world events, making BIBLE PROPHECY clear, plain, understandable, *interesting!* It's FREE! No subscription price—but you must request it for yourself. Mailing Addresses:

IN THE UNITED STATES

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG
Box III, Pasadena, Calif. 91109

IN BRITAIN AND EUROPE

AMBASSADOR COLLEGE
BCM Ambassador
London W. C. 1, England

IN AUSTRALIA

P. O. Box 345, North Sydney,
New South Wales,
Australia

IN CANADA

P. O. Box 44, Sta. A,
Vancouver, B. C.

IN AFRICA

P. O. Box 1060
Johannesburg, Transvaal,
Republic of South Africa

IN ASIA

P. O. Box 2603
Manila, Philippines

IN GERMANY

Postfach 1324
(4) Duesseeldorf 1,
West Germany

IN FRANCE AND SWITZERLAND

91 Rue de la Serrette
Casa Postale
Geneva 7, Switzerland

TUNE IN:

Herbert W. Armstrong analyzes today's

news, with the prophecies of

The WORLD TOMORROW!

Broadcast World Wide—on Every Continent!

HEARD DAILY COAST TO COAST IN U.S.A.,

AUSTRALIA AND SOUTH AFRICA

See Log in *The PLAIN TRUTH*

Printed by

AMBASCOL PRESS PTY. LTD.

105 Miller Street

North Sydney, N. S. W.

Australia