

"Salvation Test"
12-31-17 Sun AM
Eph. 2:8-10

This last Sunday in December I want us to reflect on two very important aspects of our Christian life- I want us to take a salvation test this morning and a service test tonight.

How are we saved? How do we know we are saved? What does salvation look like fleshed out in the believer's life? And What is the relationship between "faith and works?"

Turn to Eph. 2:8-10 where we see the classic passage that answers these questions. There are two tests in our salvation test- The faith test, and the works test. Paul addresses both "faith and works" in this passage.

TT- Salvation is a gift and then results in good works.

I. The Faith Test (2:8-9).

1. God's grace-

God extends grace and we exercise faith. Grace comes before faith. We could not be saved unless God extended grace. Grace means salvation is a gift undeserved and unmerited.

Note the great change that takes place in us between vs. 1-3 and vs. 4-7. What we were and what God did:

- v. 1 and v. 5
- v. 2 and v. 6
- v. 3 and vs. 4-7

2. Man's Faith-

We are called to believe (1:13). By faith we lay hold of Christ, yet all of salvation is a gift. "It" includes grace and faith. All of salvation is a gift.

We believe that Jesus is God's Son who died for our sins, was buried and was raised from the dead on the third day.

Turn to **I Cor. 15:1-4**

Because salvation is a divine gift, it cannot be earned, deserved by human merit or religious activity.

We are not saved because we are smarter, better looking, or have a higher IQ than others.

Salvation is not a work of man but a work of God. It's not in what we do but who we believe in.

Someone said, "God in His grace sent Christ to live the life we could not live, die the death we should have died, and be raised on our behalf. The glory goes only to God for salvation.

Q- Can you pass the faith test? Do you believe the gospel? Are you trusting solely in the work of Jesus on the cross to gain heaven?

If you are trying to go to heaven by works, or trusting in your human effort, or think you get the glory, then you probably fail the faith test!

What part do works play?

II. The Works Test (2:10).

We are not saved **by** works but **for** works. The root of salvation is faith, not works. Works is the fruit not the root.

James 2:14-26 says we are not saved by faith plus works, but a faith that works.

John 15:8, Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

Titus 2:14, Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

Matt. 5:16, Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Let's answer our questions:

How are we saved? By grace thru faith in the finished work of Christ on the cross.

How do we know we are saved? By a transformed life that shows itself in works, fruit, faith, and obedience.

What does salvation look like fleshed out in the believer's life? Read First John and you will see a regenerate heart.

And what is the relationship between "faith and works?" Works follow real faith. Paul said we were saved by faith alone and James said it will be a faith that is not alone!

Rom. 10:9-13, That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

(10) For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. (11) For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. (12) For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. (13) For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.