How Salvation Works

Tony Mauck · Ephesians 2:8–9

INTRODUCTION

- There is great confusion about how salvation works. Something that is so fundamental in a right response to God, yet is so often misunderstood.
- People don't understand how salvation works in large degree by a lot of false notions that are perpetuated in the religious world.
- People don't spend enough time or give sufficient effort to a thorough investigation of God's will. A lack of diligence is a spiritual killer.

1 Not a Result of Works, Lest Any Man Should Boast

Ephesians 2:8–9; Deuteronomy 9:5–6

- It is not for your righteousness or for the uprightness of your heart that you're going in to possess the land.
- It is not because of your righteousness that the Lord your God is giving you this good land to possess, for you are a stubborn people.
- All that's saying is you haven't merited this. You haven't earned this. Not a result of works, lest any man should boast.
- God makes it very clear before it ever happens, I'm causing this to happen. I am giving it to you.

2 By Faith the Walls of Jericho Fell Down

Joshua 6:2–10; Hebrews 11:30

- I have given Jericho into your hand with its king and the valiant warriors.
- By faith, the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days. Now, that's a perfect illustration of how salvation by grace through faith works.
- But you have to respond in faith. You have to trust me and believe me and do what I say.
- You don't get the gift that God has given, and then say, wow, look what I did to get it.

3 It Is Finished: God Has Finished His Part

John 19:28–30; Acts 2:40; 2 Corinthians 5:10

- God's part is massive. It's huge. We can't be saved without what God has done. But he doesn't do everything for us.
- Everything that God intended in his part to provide redemption from the beginning of the world was happening right here, right now, and it's done.
- It is finished. And he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.
- God has finished his part in the plan of salvation. But there must be some response from us, or 2 Corinthians 5 and verse 10 makes no sense at all.

4 Another Extreme: We're All on Our Own

Mark 10:24–27; Luke 17:10; Ephesians 2:10

- With men, it is impossible. But with God, all things are possible.
- There is an interplay between grace and faith, God's part and man's part, understanding all the while that God's part is so much greater than our own.
- When we've done what we've been instructed to do, Jesus says we're still unprofitable servants, Luke 17 and verse 10. We're still in need of God's mercy.
- For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. That's the faith part.

5 Believing in the Name of the Son of God

1 John 5:9–13; Luke 6:46

- Really, the entire epistle of 1 John is about unfailing belief in the Son. This is our part in response to God's greater part in our salvation.
- He who has the Son has the life. He who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.
- He says, your life is a witness. That's the faith part.
- Believing in the name of the Son of God is embracing everything that pertains to him, submitting ourselves to him as reigning King and Lord.

THE CHALLENGE

When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith in you?

MY NOTES