

THE CONTENDER

Contending For The Faith Once For All Delivered To The Saints (Jude 3)
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SAVED BY GRACE THROUGH A WORKING FAITH

The Bible plainly teaches that man is saved by the grace of Almighty God. (Eph. 2:8-10) It further teaches that we have access into this saving grace by faith (Rom. 5:1-2) and this faith is made perfect by works of obedience to God's commands (Heb. 11:4-31). Study the below chart and see how obedience to God's commands (works) unites "Grace" and "Faith" for the desired blessing of salvation.

GOD'S GRACE:

MAN'S FAITH:

Table with columns for GOD'S GRACE and MAN'S FAITH. Rows include: Noah Prepared Ark Heb. 11:7, Abraham Went Out Heb. 11:8, Israel Through Red Sea Heb. 11:29, Naaman Dipped In Jordan II Kings 5, Baptism For Salvation Mark 16:16.

(Tit. 2:11-12, Rom. 5:1-2; Gal. 5:6, Heb. 5:8-9)

OBEDIENCE UNITES FAITH AND GRACE!

- 1. Noah: Noah found grace in the eyes of God. (Gen. 6:8) He told him how to escape the flood and enjoy the blessings of a new world. (Gen. 6-10) Noah believed God so much that he did what he was told and entered into His grace. (Gen. 6:22)
2. Abraham: God pronounced a blessing upon Abram (Abraham) if he would go out to a new land. (Gen. 12:1-3) Abraham believed God to the extent of obeying him and when he acted he was blessed (Gen. 12:4,5, and Jas. 2:22-24)
3. Israel: Israel was trapped! God in His grace and goodness provided a way of escape. Instructions were given and when Israel believed these instructions strong enough to obey them they worked out their salvation by crossing the Red Sea (Ex. 14:13- 31).
4. Naaman: This man was a leper and God in His goodness showed him through the prophet how he might be cleansed from this plague. Naaman demonstrated his unbelief by refusing to do what he was told..and of course was not healed. It was only later when he obeyed the instructions that he was blessed (II Kings 5).
5. You: You are lost and destined for hell because of your sin (Jn. 3:18, 36; Eph. 2:12, Rom. 5:10). It is not God's will that you perish and He has provided His Son for your redemption (II Pet. 3:9, Jn. 3:16). However unless you believe the Son strong enough to obey Him you will never enter in to the grace of God enjoying salvation (Heb. 5:9).

WHAT CHRIST COMMANDS

- Hearing the Gospel (Lk. 10:16, Rom. 10:14,17)
Believe The Gospel (Heb. 11:6, Jn. 20:31)
Repent Of Sins (Acts 17:30, Lk. 13:3,5)
Confess Christ (Rom. 10:10, Matt. 10:32, Acts 8:37)
Be Baptized (Gal. 3:27, Mk. 16:16, Acts 2:38, I Cor. 12:13)
Faithfulness Unto Death (Rev. 2:10)

The Bible speaks of many kinds of works that will not bring salvation to man. They are: (1) Works of man Is. 64:6, (2) Works of iniquity (acts without divine authority) Matt. 7:22,23, (3) Works of the law of Moses (Gal. 2:16), (4) Works of the devil II Thess. 2:9; I Tim. 4.

We are saved, however, by the works of God...obedience to the commands of God. Even faith is a work (Jn. 6:28,29) and to deny that we are saved by works would exclude faith!

1. Matt. 7:21-27 Not everyone that says "Lord Lord" but the one that does the will of God shall make heaven.
2. Matt. 16:27 Shall be rewarded by his works
3. Jn. 14:15,16 If you love Christ you will do what He says
4. Lk. 6:46 "And why call ye me Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?"
5. Acts 2:40 Person must do something to save himself.
6. Acts 10:34,35 The one that "worketh righteousness" is accepted.
7. Jas. 2:14-26 Faith is dead if it has not works
8. Rom. 16:26 The "obedience of faith".
9. Phil. 2:12 Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.
10. Gal. 5:5 The faith which "works by love"
11. Rom. 10:17-18 We are made free from sin after obeying from our hearts that form of doctrine.
12. Heb. 5:9 "He (Christ) became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him."
13. II Cor. 5:9,10 "Labour...that we may be accepted of him."
14. I Jn. 2:3-5 Must keep the Lord's commandments for his love to be perfected in us.
15. Rom. 2:6-11 Notice how eternal life, immortality is based on: "his deeds", "not obey truth" and "worketh good"
16. Acts 6:7 "...and a great company of priests were obedient to the faith."
17. II Thess. 1:7-12 Christ will return to take vengeance on them that know not God and that "obey not the gospel", "work of faith"
18. II Pet. 1:5-11 "...for if ye do these things ye shall never fall."
19. Rev. 20:12-13 "according to their works"
20. Rev. 22:14 "Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates to the city."

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News & Notes: I thank the Ashland congregation for their invitation for me to preach in bro. Holcomb's place on Wed. while he is away in a meeting at Blockhouse bottom!

The Carter City congregation has begun a mid week Bible study of the gospel of Matthew at 7:30 each Tues. night. Lord willing, I will be teaching the study.

"They that forsake the law praise the wicked: but such as keep the law contend with them." (Prov. 28:4)

GOSPEL MEETING

Our meeting with bro. Bernard Bolton, Lord willing, will begin Monday the 21st at 7:30 p.m. here at South Shore. Hopefully one night may be set aside for his film report of bro. McCallister and his work in India.

INDIAN SUPPORT

Support is starting to arrive. Can you help preach the gospel in India?