

NORTHEAST HOUSTON COMMUNITY CHURCH
Sermon: No Other Gospel Part 7
The Essential Doctrine of Salvation
Scripture Text: Ephesians 2:8–10
03/03/2019

We should have a know so salvation not a hope so salvation.

Adrian Rogers

Ephesians 2:8–10 (NKJV) 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

What do we mean when we say we are save or we have Salvation?

Salvation/Saved:

1. Preservation or deliverance from harm, ruin, or loss.
2. Deliverance from sin and its consequences, believed by Christians to be brought about by faith in Christ.
3. In religion, salvation is saving of the soul from sin and its consequences.

God has called me to be a Pastor/Teacher. In regard to that calling I want to be the best I can be. My calling as a teacher is to impart knowledge along with understanding in hopes that the lessons will lead us all to wisdom.

I hope you have learned some important information about our faith. Consider the fact that you have put your eternal existence in your faith as I have. I want to know and understand as much as I can and be sure that I am on the right track to my eternal goal.

I now come to another new piece of information that you may or may not know but is essential to understanding the doctrine of salvation.

WHO IS OUR SAVIOR?

If that question was on a test for Christians, most would answer. “Jesus is our savior.” The answer would be correct but incomplete.

Just as we learned that there were at least two Gospels taught by the Apostles there are also two that are identified as our savior.

Titus 3:4–7 (NKJV) 4 But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, 5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Our Savior is God - (1 Tim 1:1,2:3, Titus1:3, 2:10, 3:4, Jude 25)

Jesus our Savior - 2 Tim 1:10, Titus 1:4, 2:13, 3:6, 2 Pet 1:1, 11, 2:20, 3:18,)

Salvation by Faith or By Works.

Paul vs James argument

Almost uniformly, cults teach that salvation is obtained through a combination of a person's faith plus works.

In other words, the cults will almost always teach that eternal life is based at least in part on doing a certain list of good deeds or serving the organization with time or money.

Often a Christian will rightly turn to the Apostle Paul's words in *Ephesians 2:8-10*, *Titus 3:5*, or *Romans chapters three and four* to document the Biblical doctrine of salvation through faith alone.

But, at this point almost every cult member -- whether Mormon, Jehovah's Witness, Worldwide Church of God, and Catholics interject works into Salvation, etc. They will turn to the book of James to defend their belief that works are necessary for salvation.

<https://www.watchman.org/articles/other-religious-topics/james-vs-paul-salvation-by-grace-or-works/>

Justification by Faith

The major theme of Paul's letters is that salvation is a totally free gift -- not earned by good works, rituals, or obeying laws. Eternal life is by grace through faith.

In Romans chapters three and four alone, Paul states this principle no fewer than fifteen times. A few examples are: *Rom. 3:19,3:20,3:24,4:3, 4:5, 4:6, 4:15*.

Justification by Works?

However, when turning to James one finds what appears at first to be a direct contradiction. (*James 2:14, 2:17, 2:20, 2:24*).

This apparent conflict between the two epistles has caused confusion on the part of many Christians when cult members point to James as "proof" that one must earn salvation.

Out of respect for your intelligence I am not going to repeat the dismissal of the salvation by works sermon given when we compared the Catholic doctrine to what we believe regarding the topic. Let me just give a concise explanation.

1. Paul and James were not contradicting each other
2. Salvation, in part or in whole is not the result of any good works, but good works is the result of salvation.

Titus 3:4-6 (NKJV) 4 But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, 5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior,

The ongoing argument concerning salvation by faith or by works was one of the pillars of the reformation birthing the Protestant faith. This reformation has been closely identified with Martin Luther and John Calvin, both who believed that salvation was by faith alone, (*Solo Fide*)

Solo Fide (Fee-day) By faith alone.

The doctrine of sola fide asserts God's pardon for guilty sinners is granted to and received through faith alone, excluding all "works".

Martin Luther said “the doctrine of justification by faith alone is the head or the cornerstone of the Gospel”.

John Calvin said, that “the doctrine of Justification by faith alone is the hinge upon which everything turns”.

Justification compared to Salvation.

Justification does not mean the same as salvation.

Justification - to judge, regard, or treat as [righteous](#) and worthy of salvation

Genesis 6:9 (NKJV) 9 ... Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. ...

Genesis 6:9 (NIV84) 9 ... Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time...

I do not think we can say that salvation is by faith alone.

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith,

Salvation is by the **GRACE** of God (Our Savior) through our faith/belief in Jesus Christ (Our Savior) (*Romans 10:9-10*) resulting in our justification/righteousness before God.

Now I know I did not cover everything there is about the doctrine of Salvation. I have to have faith that you all know the basic essentials. My purpose is to expand our knowledge and understanding that we will be able not to just discern right from wrong but to discern both good and evil. (*Heb 6:1*)

Message Scriptures: **Ephesians 2:8–10**, *Heb 5:14*, *Judges 13:17-18*, *Titus 3:4–7*, **Our Savior is God** - (*1 Tim 1:1,2:3*, *Titus 1:3*, *2:10*, *3:4*, *Jude 25*), **Jesus our Savior** - *2 Tim 1:10*, *Titus 1:4*, *2:13*, *3:6*, *2 Pet 1:1*, *11*, *2:20*, *3:18*), **Justification by Faith** *Rom. 3:19,3:20,3:24,4:3*, *4:5*, *4:6*, *4:15*. **Justification by Works** *James 2:14*, *2:17*, *2:20*, *2:24*, *Titus 3:4–6*, *Genesis 6:9 (NKJV)*, *Genesis 6:9 (NIV84)*, *Romans 10:9-10*, *Heb 6:1*.

END

What it means to be Saved

1. **Sins are forgiven** - Luke 5:24 (NKJV) 24 *But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins”—He said to the man who was paralyzed, “I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.”*
2. **Reconciliation with God** - Romans 5:10 (NKJV) 10 *For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.*
3. **Peace with God** - Romans 5:1 (NKJV) 1 *Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,*
4. **Possess Eternal life** - John 3:15 (NKJV) 15 *that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.*
5. **Children of God** – John 1:12 (NKJV) 12 *But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:*
6. **Jesus our intercessor** - Romans 8:34 (NKJV) 34 *Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.*
7. **Jesus become our mediator** - 1 Timothy 2:5 (NKJV) 5 *For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,*
8. **Indwelled with the Holy Spirit** - 2 Timothy 1:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ *That good thing which was committed to you, keep by the Holy Spirit who dwells in us.*