

Works, Baptism, and Salvation

Works, Baptism, and Salvation: There are many who say that a person must do something in order to be saved, that they must earn it. Different religions will go far as to say that yes, salvation is by grace BUT a person must do something to add to the grace.

Then there are those who claim that baptism is a means to salvation, that when a person is baptized, it is then that they are saved. According to the Bible, there is only one kind of baptism and that is by complete immersion. The so-called baptism by sprinkling does nothing but get a person wet; nowhere in the Bible is sprinkling a legitimate form of baptism.

“And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.” {Luke 23:42-43}

Having said all, a clear and thoughtful reading of Luke 23:42-43 **PROVES** that neither works nor baptism have anything to do with a person being saved and going to Heaven. If we had no other verses than these, they are sufficient to prove the point.

With two thieves being crucified, one on each side of Jesus Christ, one thief realized that Jesus was/is **THE** Lord and all that He claimed to be. The thief realized that Jesus was/is **THE** Saviour and the He could and would save him (the thief). It is obvious that the thief repented and put his faith in Jesus. The thief called Jesus “Lord” and that is an indication that he believed on Him. As the Apostle Paul said in 1 Corinthians 12:3, “Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.” The thief, having believed on Jesus as Saviour, was then told by Jesus that, “To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.”

Please take note that the thief was not baptized nor was he in any position to do works of any kind; very soon he would be physically dead.

We must now ask a couple of questions that demand honest answers. **Question #1:** If works of any kind are necessary for salvation, how then could Jesus tell the thief that, that very day he (the thief) would be with Him (Jesus) in paradise? If works of any kind was a requirement for salvation, did Jesus then lie to the thief?

Question #2: If baptism is a requirement for salvation, how is it then possible for the thief to be with Jesus in paradise that same day? If baptism was a requirement for salvation, did Jesus then lie to the thief?

Since Jesus was and still is God the Son, He could not lie; it is impossible for Him to do anything against His holy nature. We must conclude that anyone who preaches and/or teaches that works and/or baptism are absolutes for salvation, then those people are in fact denying the Word of God and calling Jesus Christ a liar. We must also conclude that people like that cannot possibly be saved for if they were, then they would not deny the Word of God and they would not call Jesus a liar.

Speaking for myself, I am so thankful that my King James Bible is so easy to understand and that I do not need a Philadelphia lawyer to explain it to me. It does **NOT** need to be re-translated; it just needs to be re-read!

~Richard A. Ciarrocca/2016