

IS CHRIST DEAD IN VAIN?

We all like to think that we can please God somehow and earn our way to Heaven. Even in our earthy relationships, none of us wants to feel powerless or indebted. Everyone wants to feel as though they have something to contribute.

When it comes to salvation however, we must come to the place where we recognize that we cannot do anything to save ourselves or to earn God's favor. We have all fallen short of God's glory. None of us is good enough or holy enough to be in his presence for we have all transgressed his laws.

"As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:" (Rom. 3:10)

We are all guilty and we are all already condemned because of our sin. The sentence has already been passed: Death and separation from God for all eternity in a place called hell.

"For the wages of sin is death;" (Romans 6:23)

God calls us to repent of our sin, that means turning from it and toward God; but even our repentance cannot take away the penalty for our sin.

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Many try to pay for their sins through good works; but even the works that we do to please God are soiled by our sin and unacceptable to Him.

"But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags;" (Isa. 64:6)

As an evil tree can only bring forth evil fruit, man, as a sinful being can only bring forth sinful works. Only a good man can bring forth good works.

"Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit." (Matt. 7:17-18)

WHO THEN IS GOOD?

Only Jesus Christ, the sinless Son of God; (God in the flesh) is good.

Jesus Christ is the only man who ever lived that never sinned and is able to offer himself for our sins. By himself, he bore the sins of the entire world, purchasing forgiveness for all who believe.

He gave his life for ours, suffered and died on the cross *"that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life."* (John 3:15)

Jesus Christ shed his own blood to pay the price that we could not pay.

"...without shedding of blood is no remission. (Hebrews 9:22)

CAN WE HELP PAY FOR OUR SINS WITH OUR WORKS?

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." (Eph. 2:8 & 9)

God's word tells us that we are saved by God's GRACE through FAITH. Grace, by definition, means unmerited or unearned favor. If we earn it, then it is no longer grace.

“And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work.” (Rom. 11:6)

In other words, adding our works to God’s grace nullifies grace and makes salvation no longer possible.

Salvation is a free gift from God, received by faith in Jesus Christ apart from our own efforts. Trying to earn salvation by our works, means it is no longer by God’s grace (His unearned favor). We either earn it, or it is a free gift. It simply cannot be both at the same time.

If righteousness could come through our works, then what need would there be for Christ to have died?

“... for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain. (Gal. 2:21)

If there were ANY other way to pay for sins by ourselves, it would have been pointless for Christ to Die. To think we could add anything more to Christ’s once for all sacrifice is an insult as well as a rejection.

Anyone who believes they are justifying themselves through their works is rejecting the sacrifice of Christ and removing themselves from God’s grace.

“Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.” (Gal. 5:4)

“But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.” (Rom. 4:5)

Christ did for us what we could not do- He gave his own sinless life to pay for ours. Will we accept his sacrifice or continue in our dead works? Is Christ dead in vain?

Repent of your sin against God and put your trust in Jesus. He will forgive you and cleanse you from all unrighteousness and give you eternal life. If you have believed the message of Christ today, find a Bible-believing Church, be baptized as a testimony of your faith, and read your Bible every day

All scripture is taken from the King James Version of the holy Bible.

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