

serve God.

Titus 3:5-8 "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men." We should never get tired of teaching, sharing, preaching this truth of being saved by His mercy in order that we may be free to maintain good works.

What do the Scriptures say?

- 1. We are saved by grace.** (Ephesians 2:8-9, Romans 11:6).
- 2. We are justified by faith without the deeds of the Law.** (Romans 3:28, 8:33).
- 3. We are adopted by God.** (Romans 8:15, I John 4:10).
- 4. We are born of the Spirit.** (John 3:1-8).
- 5. We are sealed with the Spirit.** (Ephesians 1:13).

6. We are redeemed by the blood of Christ. (I Peter 1:18-19).

7. We are born of incorruptible seed. (I Peter 1:23, 3:4).

8. We are born of sinless seed. (I John 3:9).

9. We are sanctified. (I Corinthians 6:11, Colossians 1:13).

10. We are a new creation. (II Corinthians 5:17).

11. We have received God's divine nature. (II Peter 1:4).

12. God initiates the new birth. (John 1:12-13).

13. We are joined unto Christ. (I Corinthians 6:17).

14. Nothing can separate us from the love of God. (Romans 8:38-39).

15. God does the keeping. (II Timothy 1:12).

16. Jesus will never deny us. (II Timothy 2:12-13).

17. We dwell in Him, and He dwells in us. (Ephesians 2:10, I John 4:15).

18. We have a quality of life that is everlasting life. (John 10:28-29).

19. We, as Believers, are already seated spiritually with Christ in Heaven. (Ephesians 2:6).

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Saved From Dead Works

Dead works bring death, but when we die to dead works we rest in peace.

1. We are to receive a freedom from dead works so that we can serve Christ.

Hebrew 9:14 "How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?" The blood of Christ is meant to purge our conscience, that is, we are to be set free in our conscience. "**Dead works**" are any works, good or otherwise, that we do to **obtain** (receive) or **maintain** (keep) our eternal salvation. We are to be saved from such works! If we are focusing on becoming accepted or maintaining our acceptance with God by living up to certain legalistic standards, then we become too busy to hear and obey the voice of

God. We must be careful not to get the caught is this legalistic trap.

2. We are to be free that we can hear and obey the voice of God.

I Samuel 15:22b “Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.” We don't do good works to get saved or to keep our salvation! We, instead, are saved so that we may do good works by hearing and obeying the voice of Jesus. **John 10:27** “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.” This is more about a relationship with God and fellowship with him than about observing rules.

3. We are to put on the helmet of salvation to protect our minds.

Paul counseled the church of Ephesus to put on the whole armor of God, that they may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. Christians often omit the putting on **the helmet of salvation**. **Ephesians 6:17** “**And take the helmet of salvation**” The helmet is being saved grace through faith and knowing that nothing can take away our salvation.

The helmet of salvation brings protection to our minds against the "performance oriented salvation". The performance oriented salvation thinking is a false belief system which hinges upon our earning our salvation based upon living up to a certain standard which we have been taught about or

created in our mind.

A performance oriented belief system is a stage for many mental, emotional, and social problems. Often in such a belief system, the individual never really knows whether or not he is saved or can be saved. Why? The standards are man's creation and not the perfect Word of God. When salvation is based upon our performance, we have no assurance that we will ever live up to it. There is no guarantee that we have confessed and repented of every single sin. We may have forgotten one. We might miss a sin and still go to hell. After all, how many sins does one have to sin in order to be a sinner? This brings a sense of insecurity, doubt, and **ungodly** fear of God into our lives.

Another difficulty in believing that we can lose our salvation is that the sins of the heart are usually overlooked or ignored. Jesus said that the person who looks upon a woman with lust has already committed adultery in his heart. Believing that you can lose your salvation sets the stage for a denial of truth. It is like throwing a pebble into a pond which produces a wave of denial that potentially spreads throughout our lives.

4. We are to be free not to judge or condemn ourselves or others.

Furthermore, whatever the standards are, sooner or later, we at a weak moment, we will give in to some sin. The result is guilt, denial, blame, or self

condemnation. Again, denial is like a cancer that spread to other area of life. Blame is saying, "I would not have done wrong, if such and such had not happened to me." Self condemnation often carries with it guilt, shame, anger, depression, and hopelessness.

If we, for a time, come to meet man's standards, then there is an open door for pride to enter. We can pat ourselves on the back and say, "Look at what we have accomplished." With pride also comes a critical spirit toward others who have yet to reach man's standards. We will look down at others and condemn them for not measuring up to our standard. This makes for poor social relations. Even if we pity others, the pity brings discouragement rather than encouragement.

Luke 6:37 "Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven." When we come to understand Eternal Security, then we become less condemning of others.

Colossians 3:13 "Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye." We should remember that we only see what is on the outside of others, while God looks at what is on the inside. We should receive others even as Christ received us.

5. We are to continually affirm our "salvation by grace" that we may