

Hebrews 6.9

Salvation Accompanied

What is the relationship between our works and our salvation? Are they a chicken and the egg sort of thing, or does one necessarily precede the other? It is a sad fact that getting this question wrong puts us in danger of the fires of hell, because NO ONE will ever be able to be good enough to avoid the wrath of God for our sin. And yet the writer of Hebrews states that he sees things that accompany salvation in the Hebrews. It is important to note and understand that these things are evidentiary, NOT causative.

I. ACCOMPANY NOT CREATE

a. Salvation is NOT of works but of grace. The things we will be thinking out today are by definition works. They DO NOT produce salvation, grace, mercy, favor or any other thing that makes us saved. They are NOT the reason that God chose us. He chose us simply because He wanted to choose us; wanted to

love us; wanted to save us. You are a CHOSEN people. NOT a "rewarded for something in you" people. The first magnifies God; the second magnifies us.

b. We are saved by the blood of Christ.

Romans 6.1-14

- i. His death is imputed to our account.
- ii. His life is credited to us
- iii. His death becomes ours, thus freeing us from the debt we owe God for our sin
- iv. His resurrection becomes ours, thus granting us new life by the power of God.
- v. This new life is the crux of the thought here.
NEW LIFE MAKES NEW THINGS. ALWAYS...

c. First consider that this is an Inward facing truth - a truth displayed for our benefit

- i. Designed to confirm NOT produce
- ii. Comfort NOT preserve
- iii. Mature NOT make

iv. Reaffirm NOT restore

d. Then see the reality of the Outward Facing truth - a truth given for the purpose of God in others

i. Defend - I am persuaded

1. The writer had been voicing some concern over the salvation of some of the Hebrew church. God allowed him to remember that there are things that reliably confirm the salvation and thus attests to:

a. the power of the gospel

b. The worth of the ministry

c. The vindication of the life spent laboring in this people - God loves His servant and wants him to be comforted as well

- ii. Display to others that God is best and always right.

Ephesians 3.8-12

1. Audience

- a. Man
- b. Watching angels
- c. Demons
- d. Satan

2. Message

- a. the majesty of God
- b. The wisdom of His plan
- c. The power of His grace and mercy
- d. The wonder of His sovereign love

- iii. Demonstrate to a watching world that hates God, in other words, your salvation IS evangelism in the flesh.

1Peter 3.14-17

1. You are God's vindication and calling card
2. A winsome appeal to others of God's goodness
3. Peace and joy in the midst of evil days
4. Life has meaning and purpose, this is the day that God has made for us. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.
5. This is because salvation changes everything in us and about us. Not completely as in finished, but fully as in every part of our lives is transformed by its power.

II. CHANGES OUR RELATIONSHIP TO GOD'S CREATION

- a. We do not desire to worship the earth, or save it because it saves and preserves us... this is the mindset of the green movement, the save the planet ideology

- b. We understand that we are stewards of the creation that God gave us for His own glory and purpose.

Genesis 2:15 (NKJV)

Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.

- c. We are to use things wisely, carefully and responsibly, but we are to use them
 - i. This earth is destined for destruction, it will not last forever and will end at the appointed hour when God had ordained its end.

2 Peter 3:7 (NKJV)

But the heavens and the earth *which* are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

- d. We are to obey the creation mandate and bring order from the chaos, to enhance and create beauty.
 - i. Art, music, poetry,
 - ii. What we build with our hands
 - iii. What we do with the natural world
- e. We are called to enjoy what God has made, but it is not our primary joy nor our only hope.

III. CHANGES OUR RELATIONSHIP TO HIS FAMILY

1 Peter 2.4-10

- a. We were *apart from* the family of God / **Now** we are *a part of* the family of God
- b. Now we desire to be in loving relationships with the people of God
- c. Now we desire to deepen and strengthen those relationships

d. Now we care about and for the people that God loves and calls family

e. We used to be a people who would not care for others because we did not care about them / **Now** we spend and are spent for the sake of others; especially those of the household of faith.

IV. Changes our relationship to His Law

a. We violated His law at every turn

Romans 3.23

b. We hated His law and sought to undo it in all that we did, thought, said and loved

c. His law condemned us and damned us

Romans 6.23

- d. We lived according to our own fleshly desires and would not bow to the authority of God to command. We would do as His law demanded only if it served our own purposes.
 - i. Fundamentally hypocritical in our relationship to the law
 - ii. Applied it with a sliding scale, that always worked in our favor
 - iii. Saw every other persons infractions, but were blind to our own
- e. Now we see the law as right, as pure, as authoritative
- f. Now we see the law as that which guides our thinking and our actions
- g. Now we submit, owning that God is right, even when His law is contrary to our flesh and its desires
- h. Now we seek to see the law of God loved and obeyed, but we apply that desire FIRST to

our own lives before we bludgeon others...
(and that perspective largely stops the
bludgeoning BTW)

V. Ultimately Salvation Changes our relationship to
God

Romans 1.18-23

Romans 1.28-32

Romans 5.1-5

- a. We were rebels against His rule / We are now
children of His love
- b. We were hostile to His person / We are
now beloved of Him and love Him because of
that fact
- c. We were opposed to His purposes / We are
now aimed at the same glorious purpose
- d. We were contrary to His very existence /
We now see Him in everything

e. We used to seek our own, now we seek HIM! God is our highest desire, our surest hope and our only hope. This great reality is the surest testimony of our conversion. It is the answer of a changed heart to the presence of God and it is the work of the Holy Spirit who dwells within us and gives us a heart FOR the Father!

Galatians 4:6–7 (NKJV)

6 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!” 7 Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.