



ARE GOOD WORKS  
**ESSENTIAL**  
TO SALVATION?

(Romans 2:6)

# ARE GOOD WORKS **ESSENTIAL** TO SALVATION?



What does Paul mean in Romans 2:6? Is he saying we will be given back according to what we have done? If someone does not do a lot of deeds/works they will not get to heaven?

The concept of good works and salvation has confused me, because we cannot work our way or earn salvation based on all the good we have done, as we are saved by grace through faith, but that verse, as well as Eph. 2:10, Titus 2:14, 3:8, Hebrews 10:24, Matthew 5:16, confuse me, because they all talk about good works.

I feel if I am not doing enough as a Christian then I will not get to heaven. That sounds like works salvation to a lot of people and makes me put a lot of pressure on myself which makes me feel like I am relying on myself to get to heaven instead of God.



# ARE GOOD WORKS ESSENTIAL TO SALVATION?



- The misunderstanding of Biblical terms such as, “salvation,” “grace,” “faith,” and “works,” has resulted in many FALSE conclusions, FALSE explanations, and FALSE applications of scripture.
- Much confusion exists due to a failure to recognize how these terms are used differently in various contexts.
- The result is the inappropriate conflation of Bible passages, thereby creating contradictory concepts & teaching.



ARE GOOD WORKS

THINGS COMMANDED BY GOD:  
HEARING, BELIEVING, & OBEYING JESUS!

**ESSENTIAL**

NECESSARY / REQUIRED

TO SALVATION?

IN ORDER TO / UNTO:  
INITIAL JUSTIFICATION  
CURRENT STANDING W/ GOD  
ETERNAL GLORIFICATION



ARE GOOD WORKS  
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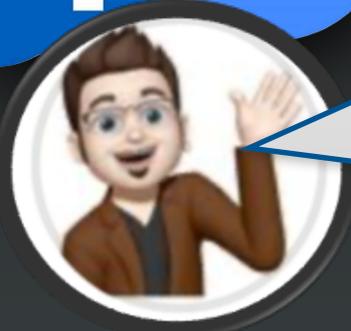
**YES!**

John 6:29; John 8:24  
Luke 13:3,5; Acts 17:30  
Mat. 7:21-26; Heb. 5:8,9  
Ja. 2:14-26; Titus 2:11-14  
Romans 2:3-11; 2 Cor. 5:10;  
Matthew 25:31-46  
2 Thes. 1:7-9; 1 Pet. 4:17

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What does Paul mean in Romans 2:6? Is he saying we will be given back according to what we have done? If someone does not do a lot of deeds/works they will not get to heaven?



## Romans 2:3–11 (NKJV)

<sup>3</sup> And do you think this, O man, you who judge those **practicing** such things, and doing the same, that you will escape the judgment of God? <sup>4</sup> Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to **repentance**? <sup>5</sup> But in accordance with your hardness and your **impenitent** heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God,

SIN (disobedience) results in condemnation.

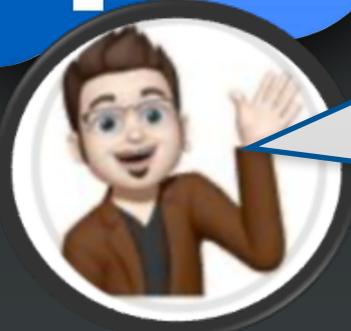
THE GOSPEL REQUIRES REPENTANCE!

THE IMPENITENT WILL RECEIVE GOD'S WRATH!

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Ps. 62:12; Prov. 24:12;  
Jer. 17:10; 2 Cor. 5:10;  
Rev. 20:12, 13

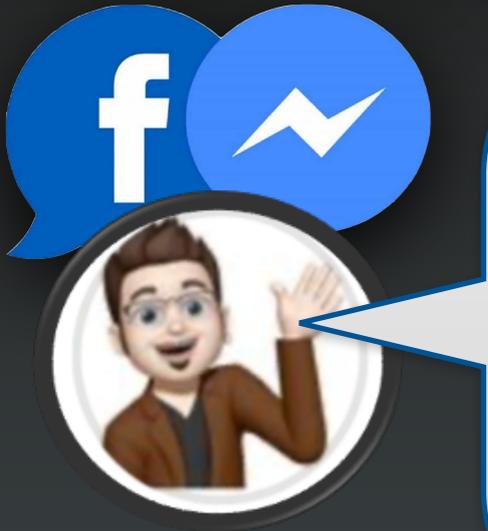
OBEDIENCE RESULTS IN  
SALVATION /  
DISOBEDIENCE RESULTS  
IN CONDEMNATION

EVIL = WRATH  
OBEDIENCE OF FAITH =  
GLORY, HONOR, PEACE

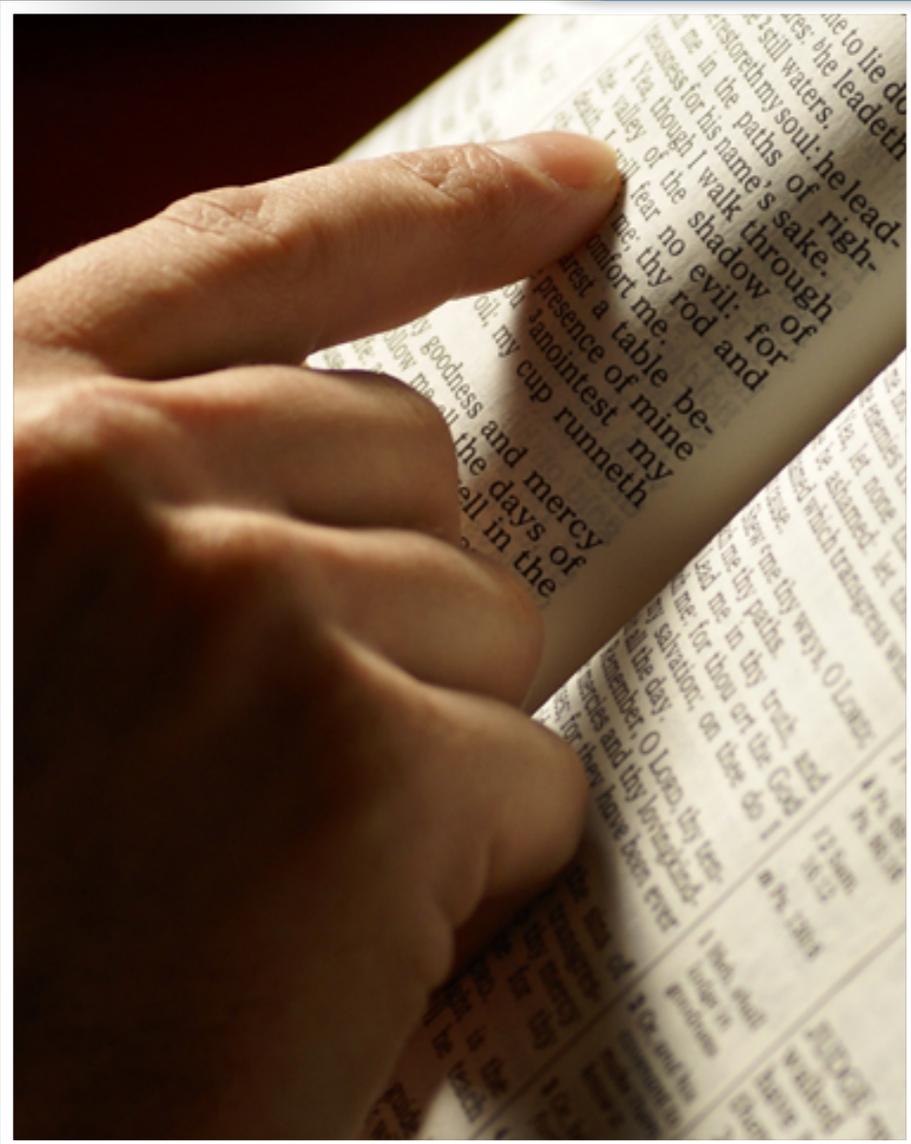
## Romans 2:3–11 (NKJV)

<sup>6</sup> who “*will render to each one according to his deeds*”: <sup>7</sup> eternal life to those who by patient **continuance in doing good** seek for glory, honor, and immortality; <sup>8</sup> but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness—indignation and wrath, <sup>9</sup> tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man **who does evil**, of the Jew first and also of the Greek; <sup>10</sup> but glory, honor, and peace to everyone **who works what is good**, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. <sup>11</sup> For there is no partiality with God.

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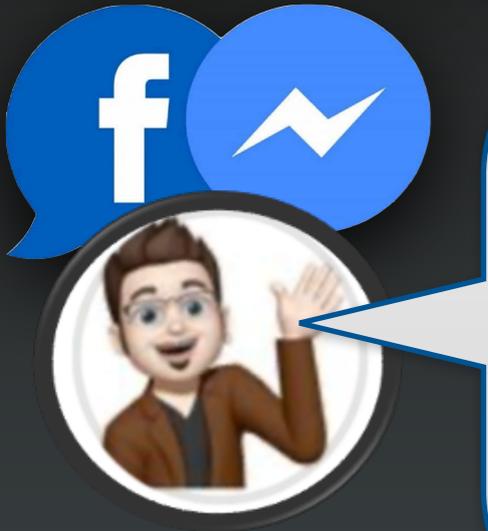
**Ephesians 2:10** - “created in Christ Jesus for good works”

**Titus 2:14** - “zealous for good works.”

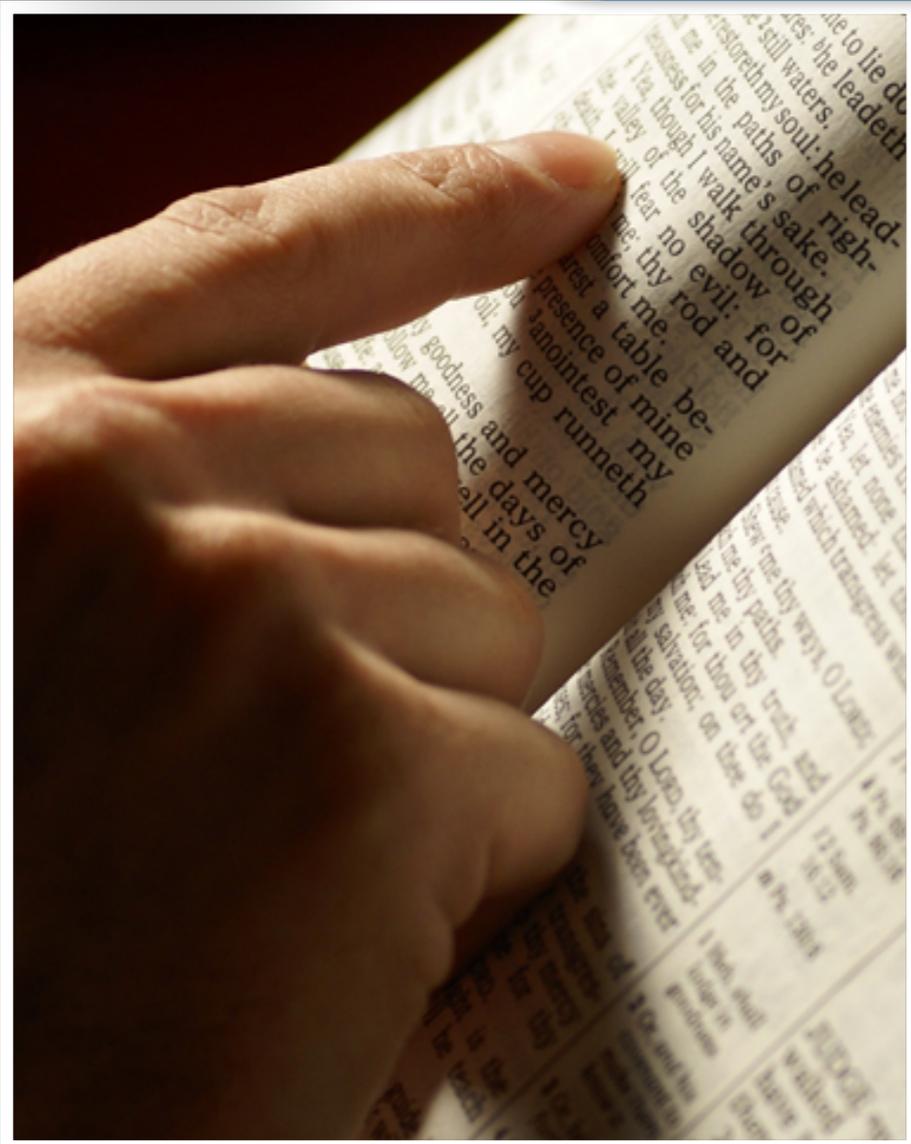
**Hebrews 10:24** - “consider one another in order to stir up love and good works”

- ▶ Saved people **MUST** continue to believe, (i.e., obey and serve), the one who saved them!
- ▶ We should understand that faithfulness can **NEVER** repay the debt we owe - we can **NEVER** earn our salvation! (Mt 20:1-16)

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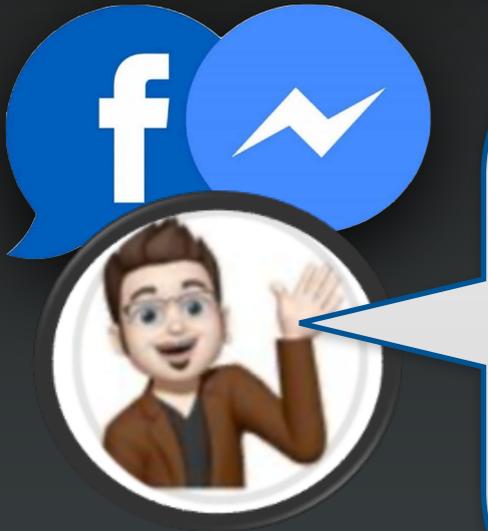
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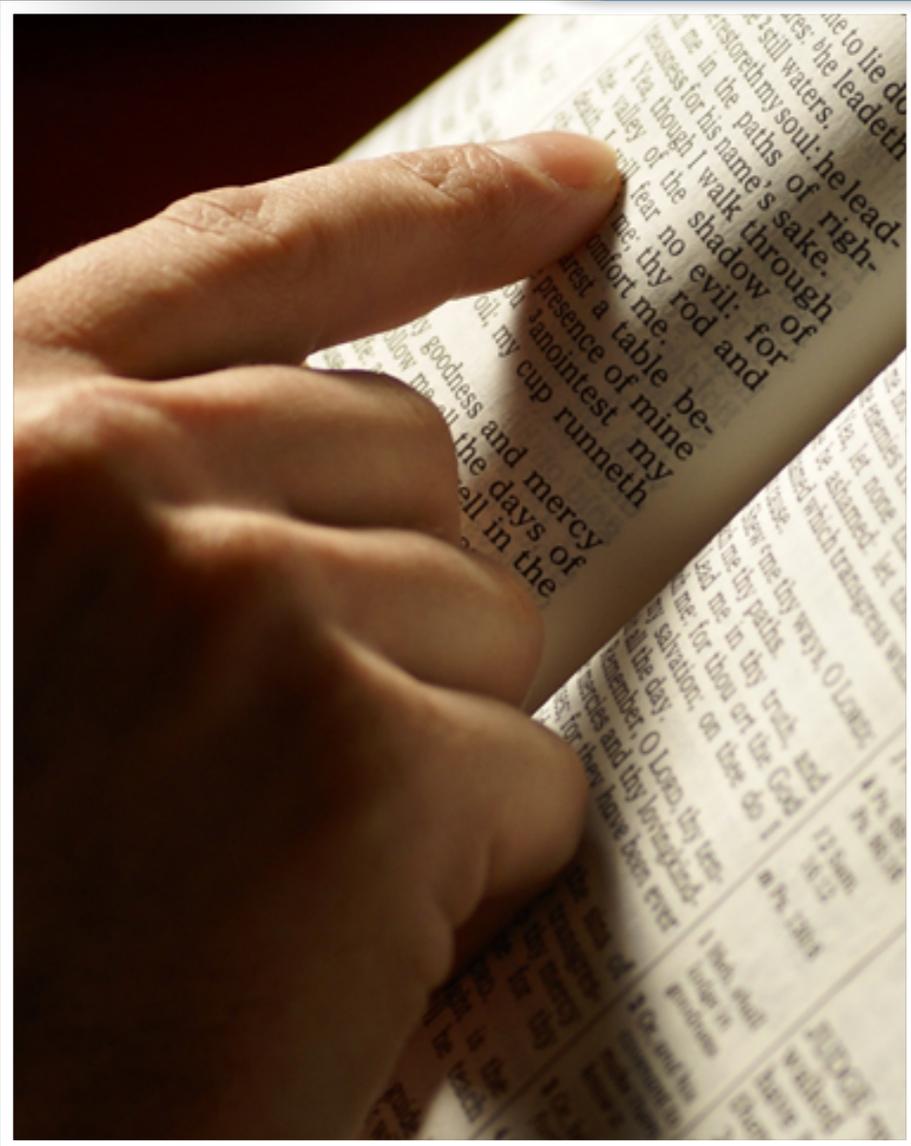
## **Luke 17:10 (NKJV)**

**10** So likewise you, when you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, ‘We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do.’”

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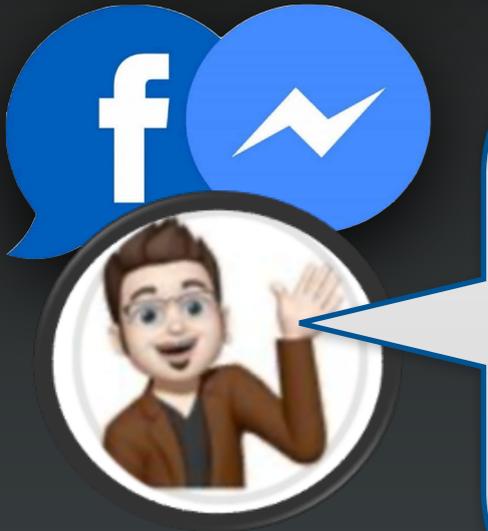


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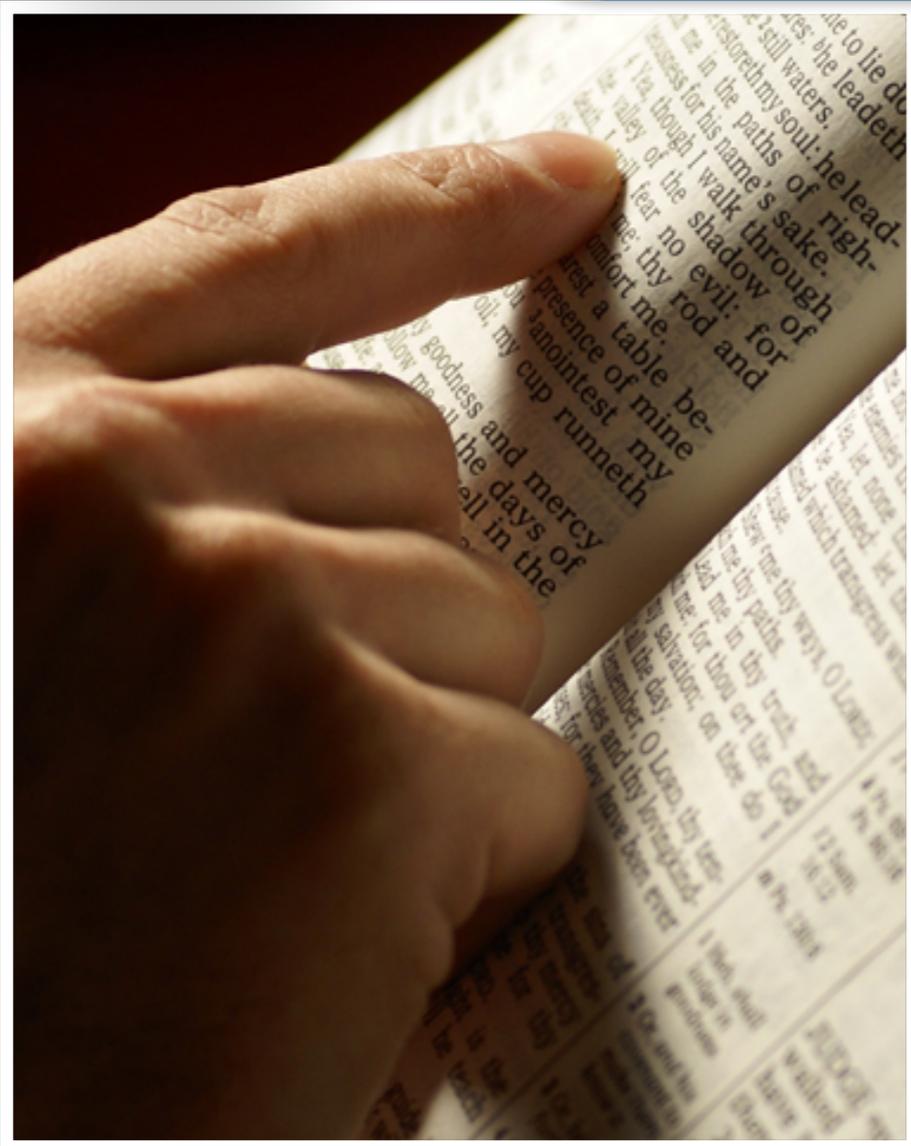


- ▶ Many argue, “we do good works **BECAUSE** we are saved, **NOT** to be saved.”
- ▶ This is partially true, in that being saved from our past sins should motivate us unto good works - **BUT**, being saved from our past sins will not benefit us if we fail to “do good works,” i.e., obey Jesus, striving to live a faithful life, and growing in our faith (Mat. 25:31-46; Col. 3:1-17; 2 Peter 1:5-11; etc.)
- ▶ Eternal glory is conditioned on our “patient continuance in doing good” (Heb. 3:14ff)

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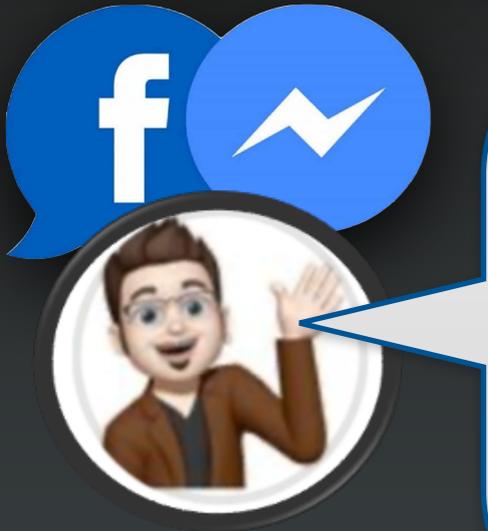


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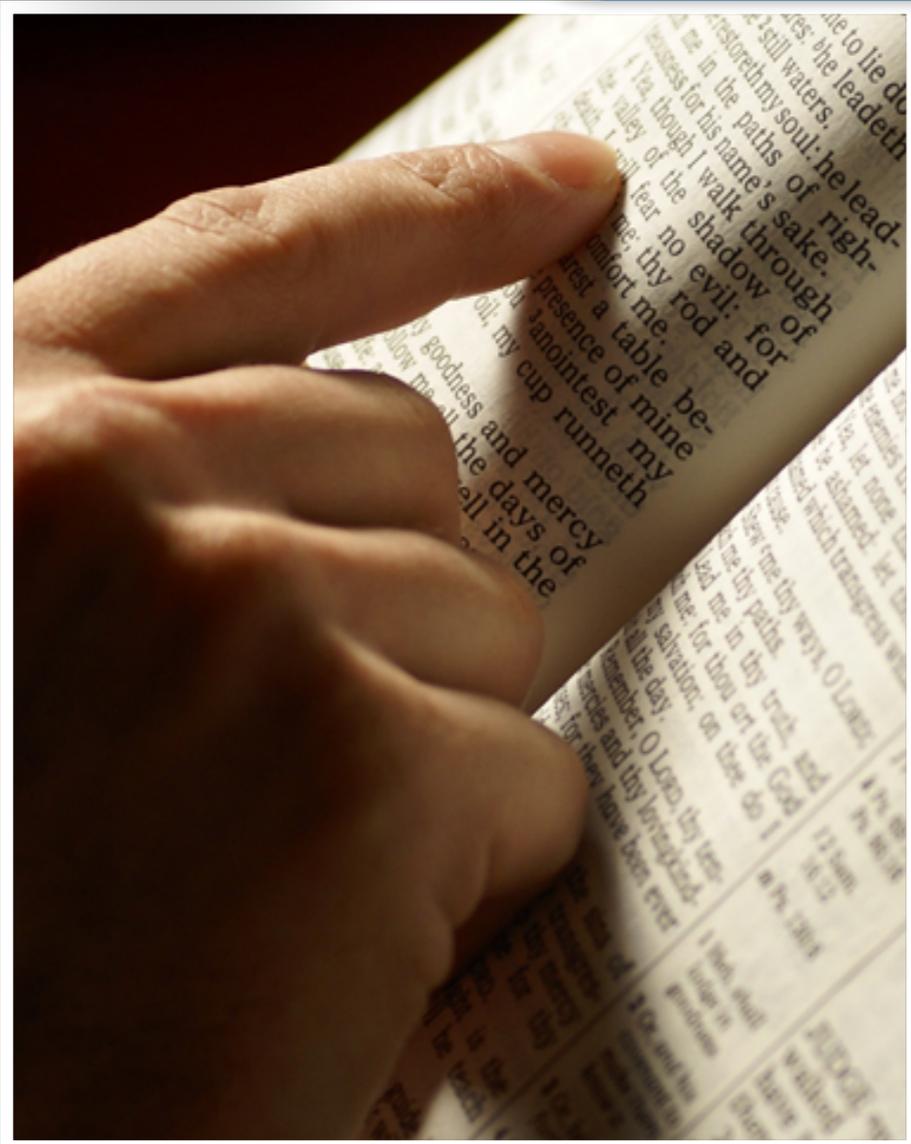


- ▶ Meeting the conditions established by God, such as faith, repentance, baptism, or “doing good,” does not, (nor can it), earn, merit, or pay for the forgiveness of our sins and the GIFT of eternal life (Luke 17:10; Eph. 2:8; Titus 3:4,5; Rom. 4:1-12; 5:8,9; 6:3-23; etc.)
- ▶ The premise that “*if we have to do anything at all to receive salvation we would earn salvation,*” is a premise that despises the value of salvation and the value of the sacrifice of Christ (Heb. 10:26-31).

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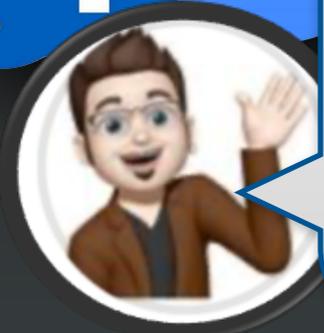
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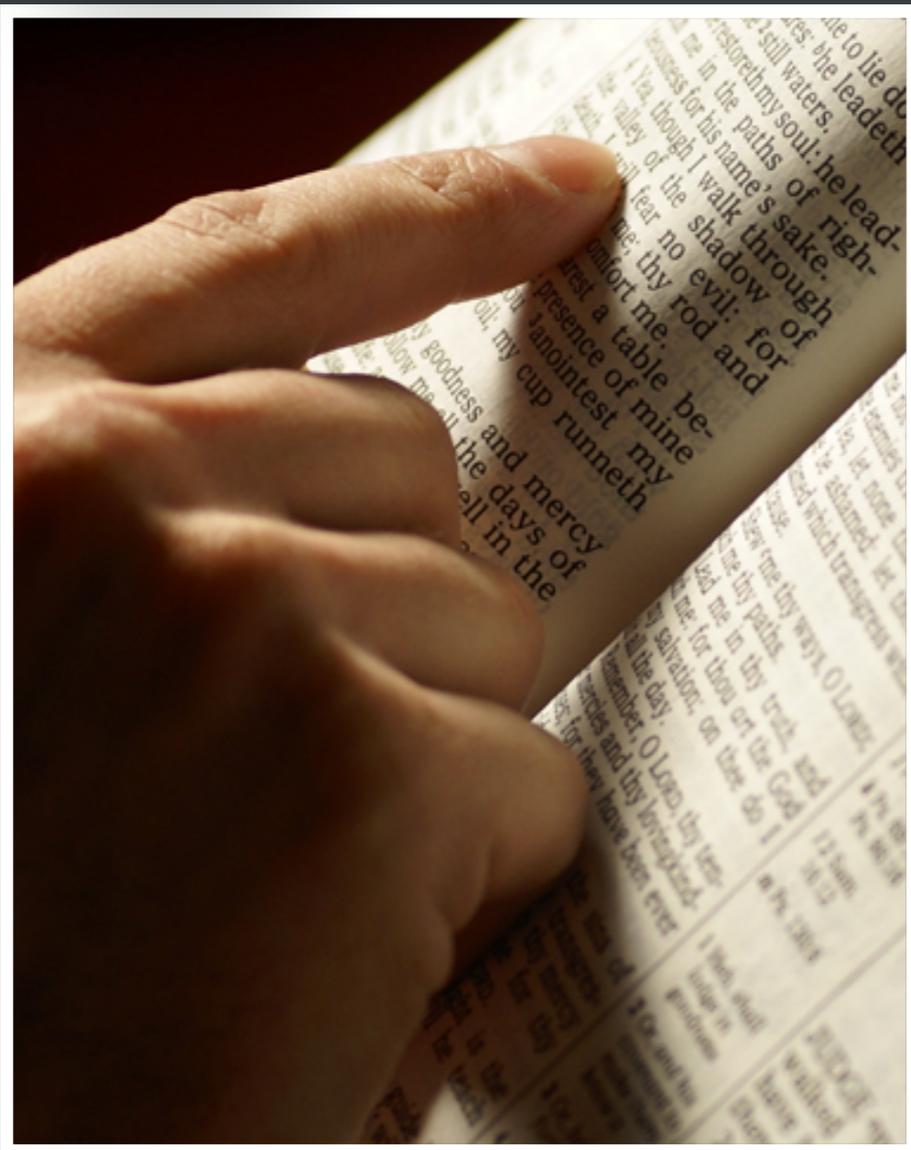
## **Romans 6:16–18 (NKJV)**

<sup>16</sup> Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin *leading* to death, or of obedience *leading* to righteousness? <sup>17</sup> But God be thanked that *though* you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. <sup>18</sup> And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.

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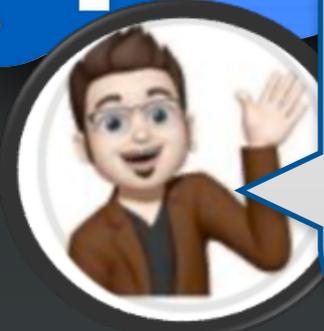


I feel if I am not doing enough as a Christian then I will not get to heaven. That sounds like works salvation to a lot of people and makes me put a lot of pressure on myself which makes me feel like I am relying on myself to get to heaven instead of God.

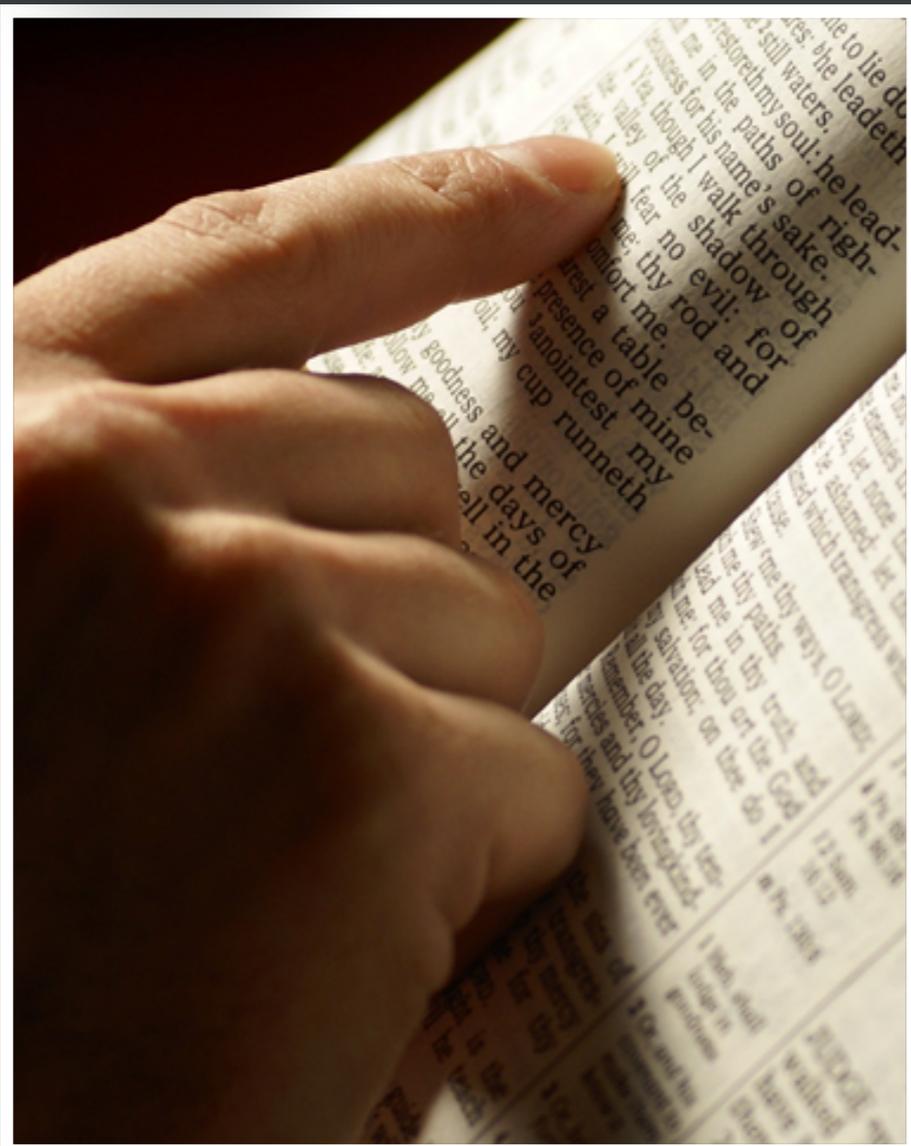


- ▶ What about all of the passages that plainly state we are “NOT SAVED BY WORKS?”
- ▶ First, the term works is used differently:
  - ✓ Law of Moses (Rom. 3:28; 4; Gal. 2:18)
  - ✓ Of merit (Rom 11:6; Eph 2:8)
  - ✓ Of our righteousness (Tit 3:5; Rom. 10:1-3)
  - ✓ Of God’s righteousness (Jn 6:28,29; Acts 10:35; 1 John. 2:29; 3:7; 3:10)
  - ✓ Works of faith (1 Th. 1:3; Ja. 2:14-26)
  - ✓ Good Works (Eph. 2:10; Tit. 3:8-14)

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- ▶ What about all of the passages that plainly state we are “NOT SAVED BY WORKS?”
- ▶ Secondly, we need to understand the difference between the basis of our salvation, the means of our salvation, and the conditions God has required for us to be saved from our sins.

# ARE GOOD WORKS **ESSENTIAL** TO SALVATION?

WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ...

**God's Universal  
Kindness, Love &  
Mercy.**

**BASIS  
(Not of  
WORKS)**

**The Gracious  
Gift of God's  
Son & The  
Gospel -**

**CONDITIONS**  
We **MUST** meet  
(WORKS)

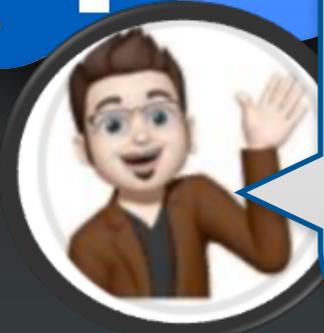


**SALVATION**

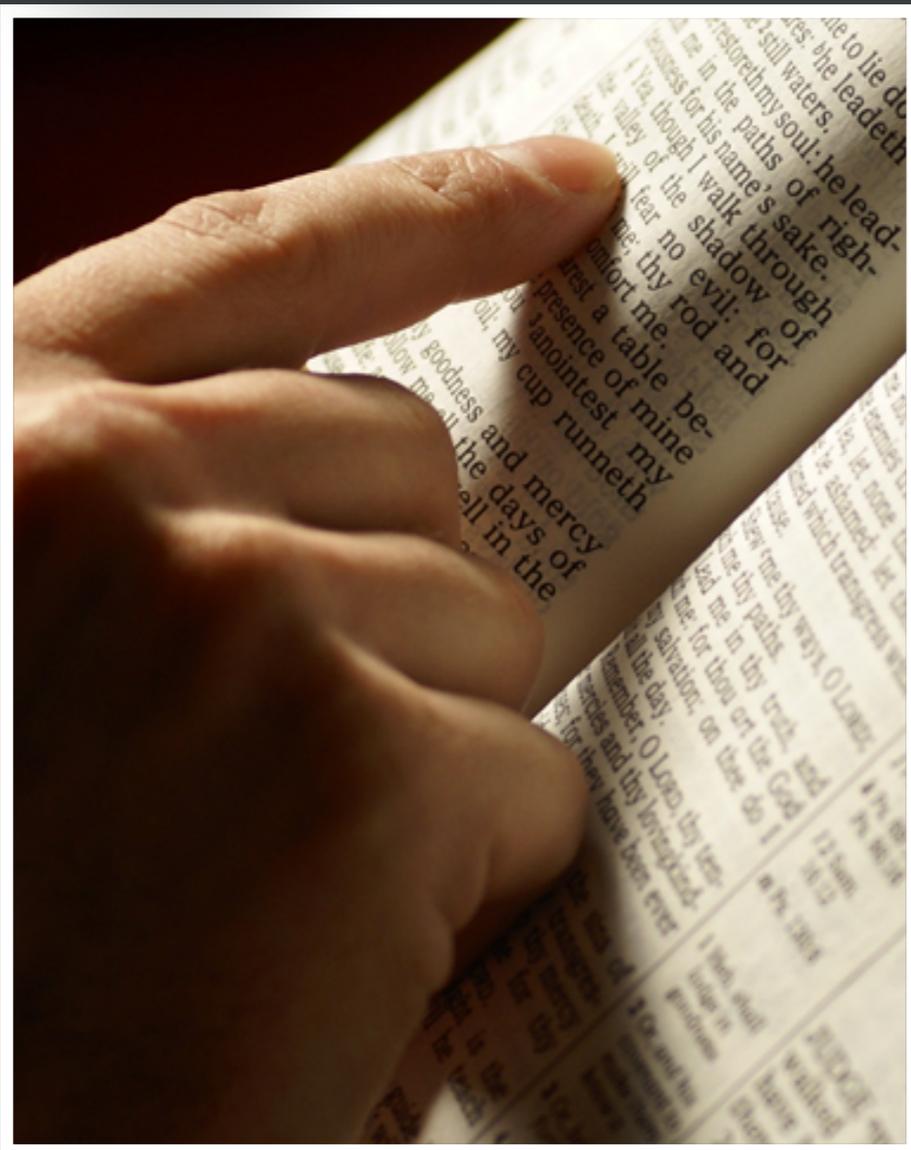
**PROVISION**  
(Not of  
WORKS)

**Faith – (*Repent – Confess  
– Be baptized - Persevere  
in Good Works*)**

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- ▶ Secondly, we need to understand the difference between the basis of our salvation, the means of our salvation, and the conditions God has required for us to be saved from our sins.
- ▶ Many **FALSELY** teach that salvation is **WHOLLY**, from start to finish, “**ALL OF GOD, AND NONE** of MAN.” — This view stems from Calvinistic theology and is **OPPOSED** to Biblical truth!

# ARE GOOD WORKS **ESSENTIAL** TO SALVATION?

IF salvation is WHOLLY, from start to finish,

“ALL OF GOD, AND NONE of MAN.”

## Calvinism

Men Have NO  
Choice

Limited  
Atonement

Double  
Predestination

God is Partial

## Universalism

Men Have NO  
Choice

Universal  
Atonement

Universal  
Predestination

God is Unjust

## TRUTH

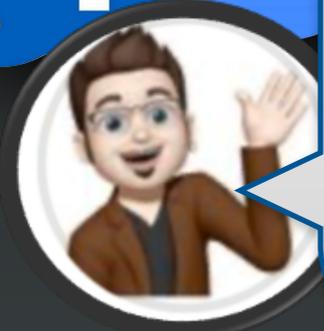
Men Have A  
Choice

Atonement  
Available to All

Biblical  
Predestination

God is Impartial

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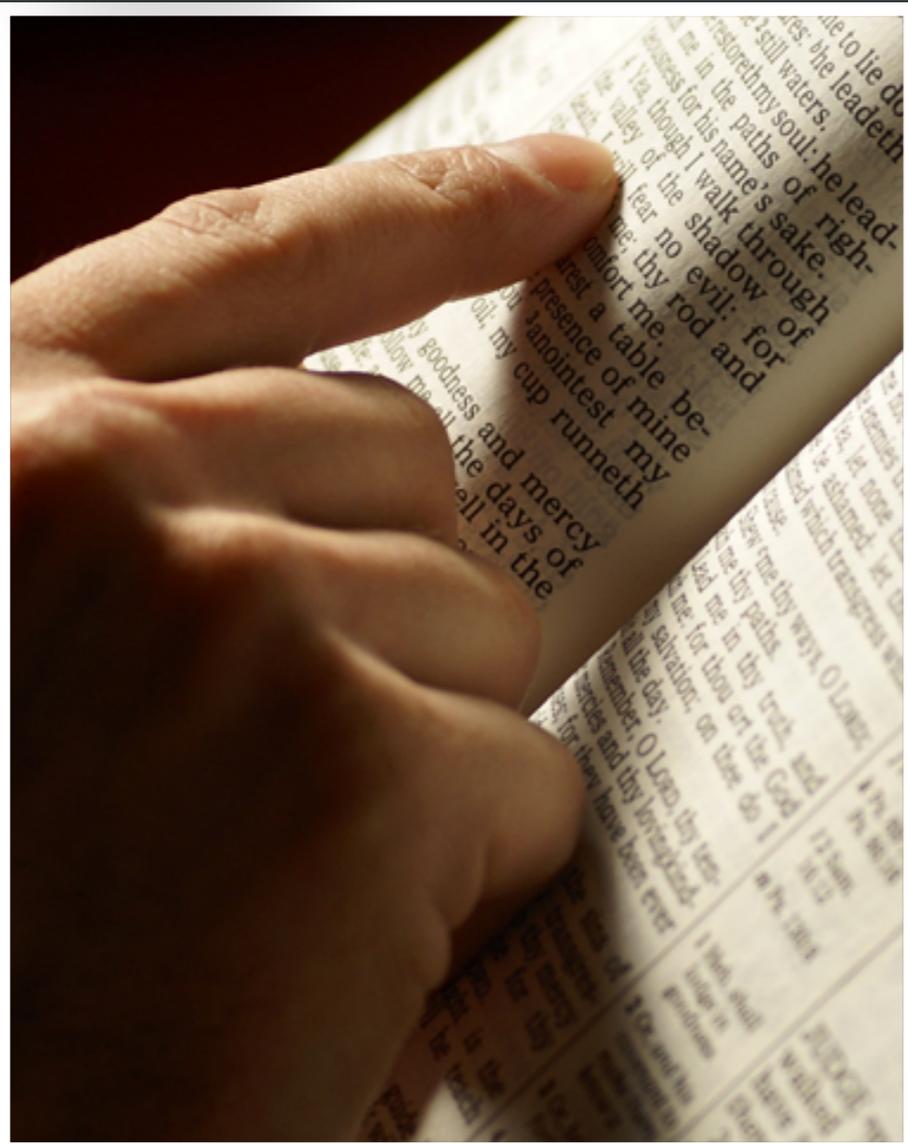
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## James 4:17 (NKJV)

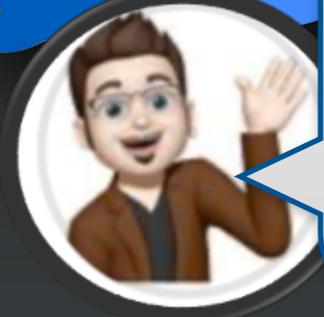
<sup>17</sup> Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do *it*, to him it is sin.

## 2 Peter 1:5–9 (NKJV)

<sup>5</sup> But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith ... <sup>8</sup> For if these things are yours and abound, *you* will be neither barren nor unfruitful ... he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.



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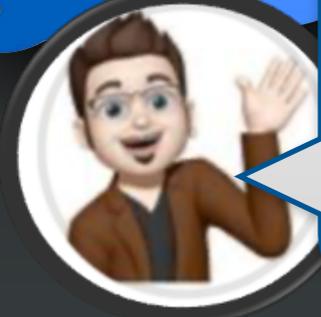
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Ephesians 2:8–9  
(NKJV)

<sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not of works, lest anyone should boast.

- ▶ Salvation is a gift of God which no man deserves (Rom 3:23)
- ▶ Salvation is received through the means of our faith (John 3:16; 8:24; Heb 11:6; Rom 10:17)
- ▶ Salvation cannot be earned by our own efforts (Rom. 11:6)
- ▶ No man can boast before God (Rom. 4:2; 3:23)

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- ▶ Noah saved by grace through faith (Gen. 6:8; Heb 11:7)
- ▶ Naaman healed by grace through faith (2 Kings 5:1-19; Lk 4:27)
- ▶ Walls of Jericho fell by grace through faith (Joshua 6:2,15,16,20; Heb 11:30)
- ▶ The FAITH that obeys does not nullify God's grace or earn it - but receives it! (Mk 16:16; Gal. 2:20; Acts 2:38; 22:16; Rom 6:3-19; Col. 2:12,13)

# ARE GOOD WORKS **ESSENTIAL** TO SALVATION? SAME PRINCIPLE IN EVERY AGE ...

GOD  
SPEAKS

MAN  
HEARS

MAN  
OBEYS BY  
FAITH

GOD  
SAVES

**NOAH** - Gen. 6:8,13-17; 22; 7:5; Heb 11:7

**ABRAHAM** – Gen 12:4; 15:6; 17:10,23; 22:3,16-18

**ISRAEL** – Ex. 12:13; 14:30; Dt 30:15-19; Jos 6; 1 Cor 10:1-13

**US** – Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 8:12,37; Rom 6:3-6; 10:9-13; Gal.  
3:26,27; Col. 2:11-13; 1 Pet 3:21; 1 Jn 1:9; Rom. 2:5-11

# ARE GOOD WORKS **ESSENTIAL** TO SALVATION?

FAITH THAT OBEYS IS THE FAITH THAT SAVES



**Faith  
ALONE  
CANNOT  
Save!!**

## **James 2:14–26 (NKJV)**

<sup>14</sup> What *does it* profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him?

<sup>15</sup> If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, <sup>16</sup> and one of you says to them, “Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,” but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what *does it* profit?

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FAITH THAT OBEYS IS THE FAITH THAT SAVES

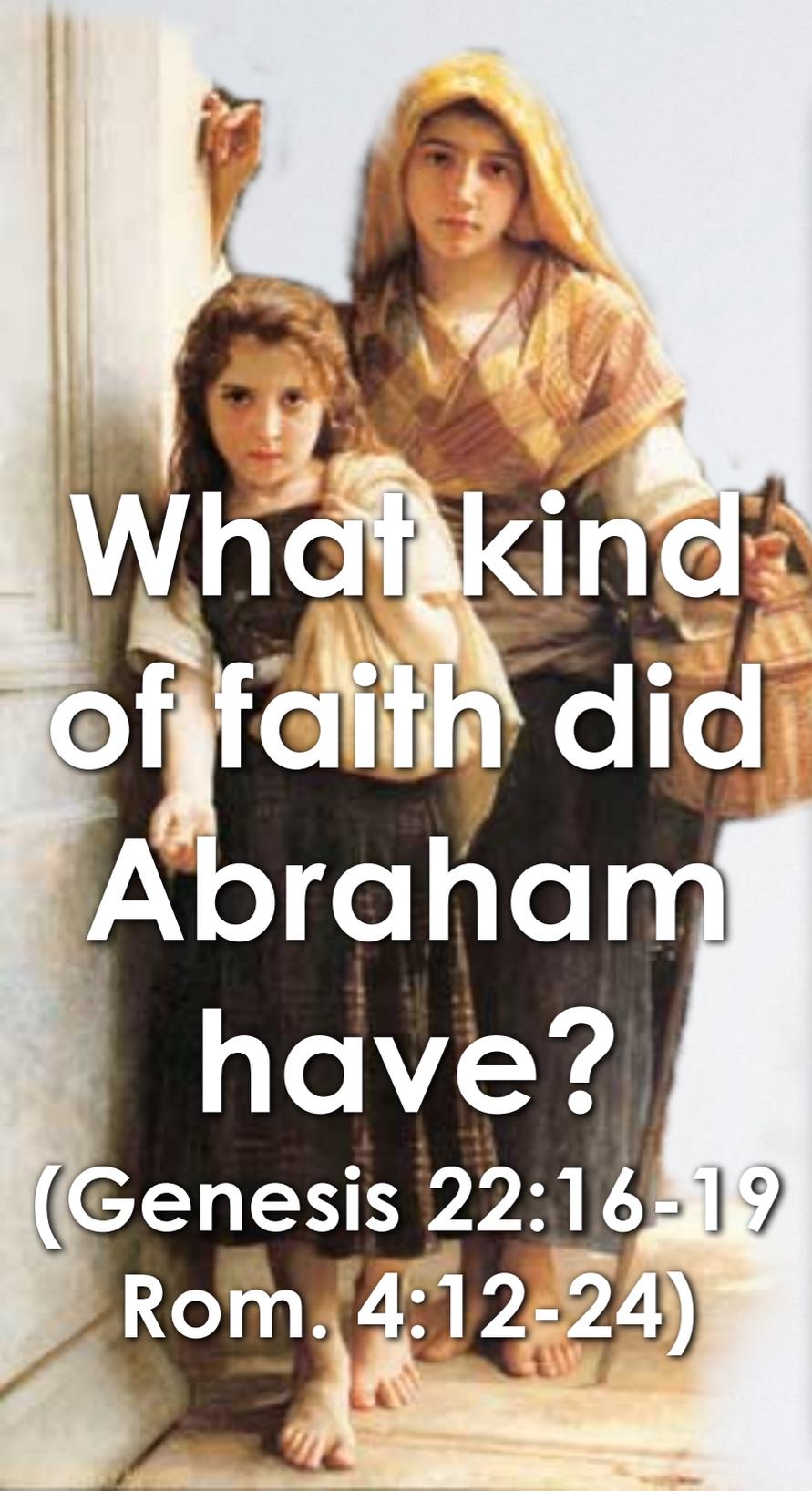


## **James 2:14–26 (NKJV)**

<sup>17</sup> Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. <sup>18</sup> But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. <sup>19</sup> You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!

# ARE GOOD WORKS **ESSENTIAL** TO SALVATION?

FAITH THAT OBEYS IS THE FAITH THAT SAVES



**What kind  
of faith did  
Abraham  
have?**

**(Genesis 22:16-19  
Rom. 4:12-24)**

**James 2:14–26 (NKJV)**

**20** But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead? **21** Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? **22** Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect?

# ARE GOOD WORKS **ESSENTIAL** TO SALVATION?

FAITH THAT OBEYS IS THE FAITH THAT SAVES



**James 2:14–26 (NKJV)**

<sup>23</sup> And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “*Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.*” And he was called the friend of God. <sup>24</sup> You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.

ARE GOOD WORKS

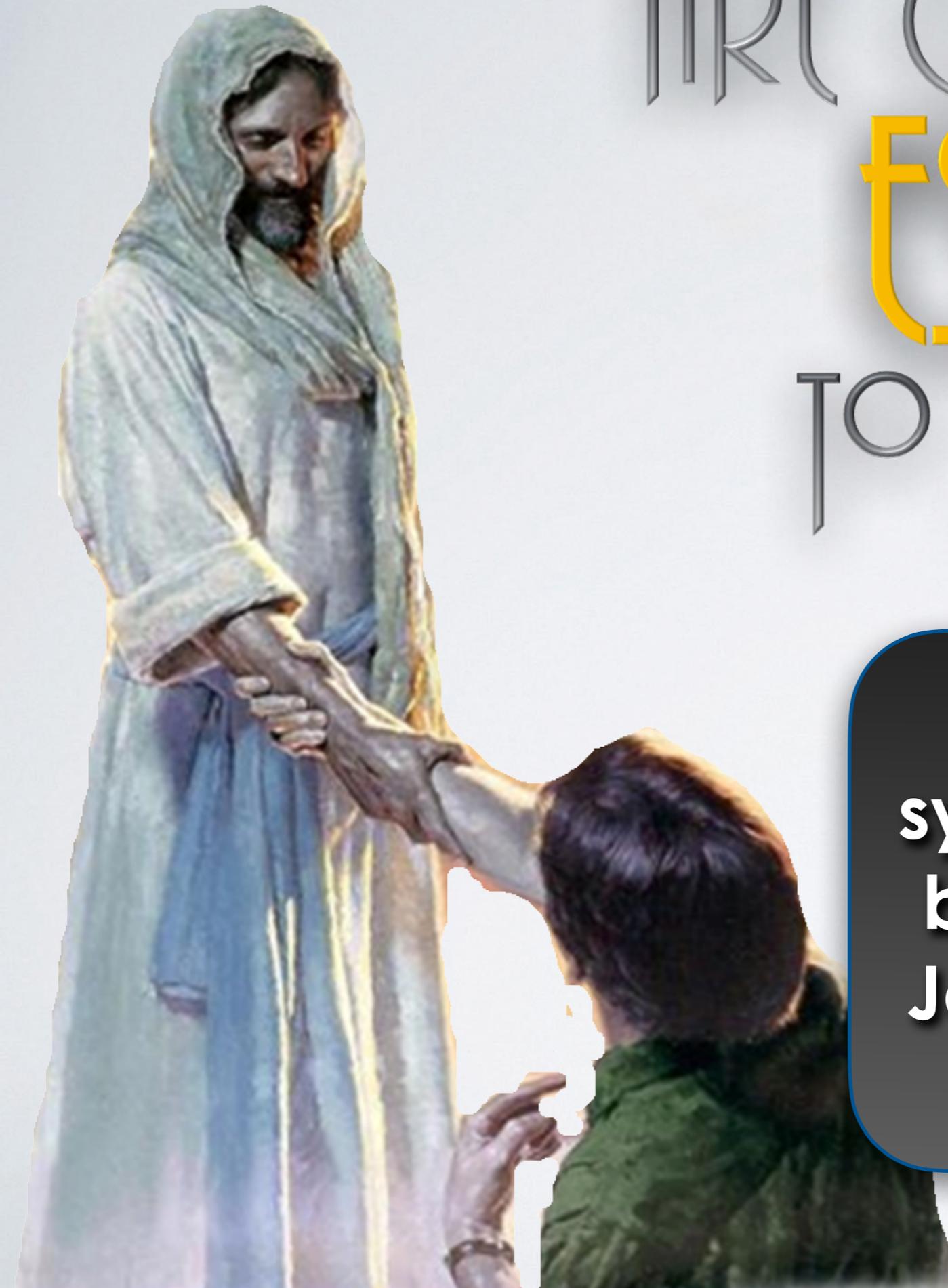
ESSENTIAL

TO SALVATION?



**The only effectual  
faith is the faith that  
obeys God! —  
(James 2:14-26; Heb. 11)**

# ARE GOOD WORKS ESSENTIAL TO SALVATION?



**The Gospel is NOT a system based on MERIT – but forgiveness through Jesus Christ when we by faith obey Him –**

# ARE GOOD WORKS ESSENTIAL TO SALVATION?



- Salvation is either merited or it is unmerited – It can't be both! (Romans 11:6)
- Forgiveness is unmerited through Jesus Christ when we, by faith, obey Him (Heb. 5:8.9; Act 2:38; Gal. 3:26,27)

ARE GOOD WORKS  
**ESSENTIAL**  
TO SALVATION?



**What kind of FAITH /  
WORKS do you have?  
(Mk 16:16; Acts 2:37,38,41;  
Gal. 3:26,27)**



ARE GOOD WORKS  
**ESSENTIAL**  
TO SALVATION?

**The BIBLE  
SAYS YES!  
NOT TO EARN -  
BUT TO RECEIVE  
Will you BELIEVE  
GOD'S WORD?**

(Romans 2:6)



A close-up photograph of two hands shaking, symbolizing agreement or support. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with a person in a dark shirt and khaki pants.

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**ESSENTIAL**  
TO SALVATION?  
(Romans 2:6)

**CHARTS BY DON MCCLAIN**

Preached April 3, 2022

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# Revelation 20:11–15 (NKJV)

<sup>11</sup> Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. <sup>12</sup> And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is *the Book of Life*. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. <sup>13</sup> The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. <sup>14</sup> Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. <sup>15</sup> And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.