

The gospel of Jesus Christ in this present dispensation is that Jesus Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose the third day. Whoever believes this gospel is saved. We are saved by grace through faith without works. This means that works are not required and have no bearing on our salvation prior to conversion, at the moment of conversion, or subsequent to conversion. We are saved by grace, so to trust in works is to be outside of grace.

The result of our salvation accomplished through the blood of Jesus at the cross is that we are now dead to sin and alive with Christ through his resurrection. We can expect to walk in the Spirit through faith. This means that the life we now live is expressed by Jesus Christ living in us through his Spirit. This life is sinless, perfect, blameless, full of power, of a sound mind, and full of love, peace, and good works. This is the life that we fully expect to live according to the salvation accomplished for us at the cross.

However, with the above said, we must take heed not to focus on the life in Christ more than the effector of that life. In other words, if we focus on Jesus and the new life so much that our focus becomes "I am perfect and sinless and justified in all that I think, say, and do", then we have essentially slipped back under works. Although the works in the new life are grounded in the cross, we can in no way focus on them or trust in them for justification or peace. Our justification and peace must always be centered on the cross of Jesus Christ and what he accomplished there for us. Our salvation is free without works. The righteousness of God is not the works we perform through Jesus, but entirely the work that Jesus performed at the cross.

Therefore, the grace of God is sufficient for us. Though we expect to live a life blameless and sinless before him, our peace and justification does not come from that. If for example we sin or think we sin or find a guilty conscience whether by sin or accusation or temptation, we shall not justify ourselves before God by saying, "I am dead to sin. It is impossible for me to sin, so I know what I did, am doing, and will do is righteous", but rather look to the cross and know that it is our righteousness and that works have no connection in the grace wherein we stand. Thus, his grace is sufficient and we need not justify ourselves before him, regardless of how grounded our works are in him. We justify not ourselves, but rather see him as our justification and therein rejoice because of this grace and mercy brought unto us.

The gospel of Jesus must remain grace through faith and not of works. Works have no connection prior to, during, or subsequent to our conversion.

Therefore, we cannot judge anything before the time because we often know not the work that God is doing in his people. When a man believes in Jesus and enters the grace accomplished by the cross being sealed by the Holy Ghost, we expect him to live holy and blameless according to the Spirit that lives in him. But and if that person continues on in sin, we have to continue to believe that Jesus is his justification. Though we break fellowship and deliver such a one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, yet we remain confident that such a one will have his spirit saved in the day of the Lord Jesus. We must at all times hold fast to our gospel of grace which means no works at all.

Faith is a gift from God. We cannot strive with him, but we work according to the measure of faith in us. We are his workpiece and he molds us as he pleases. All we can do in him is to continue trusting and believing that the salvation accomplished at the cross is our justification and sufficient at all times. We continue to believe that he is working all things together for our good.

My righteousness is the cross regardless of what happens. Though I do no good works and receive no prize. Though I be the least among the saints in heavenly places, I will boast in the cross and say that God's grace for me is sufficient. God forbid I boast in works or rewards.