

Salvation is Proven by “Good Deeds”

Last words from Joshua: “Remind them that I love them...that I died for them...tell them that my love is real and if they open their hearts to it, I will fill that emptiness...and we have to ‘Love One Another’. That’s the message. It hasn’t changed. Tell them Peter (Pope)...tell, them!” This short dialog is the last scene from the movie “Joshua” with Tony Goldwyn who played Joshua. Joshua is the Greek form for Jesus. It’s a great movie for everyone. It was directed beautifully. Tony Goldwyn was perfect for the role, especially how he in the last scene, showed Jesus’ great grief for the lack of mutual love by humanity.

On a more personal note, Jesus’ spirit has given me a conscience, which can be quite painful at times. In correlation with Robert D. Brinsmead video entitled, “The Spirit of Jesus and the Bible”, I have been caught up and infected with the spirit of Jesus. This is more important than being caught up with all kinds of bible information. Like Jesus, I am grieving for my family, my friends, and my neighbors near and far. Some have died, some are in pain from ailments, as I am, and some have aged greatly from when I first met them. Also, others are in foreclosure, without hope, without money, without jobs or in fear of losing one, and many are homeless. I won’t even begin to talk about depression. I ask forgiveness and forgive my enemies, if I have any, for I am not a mutual enemy with anyone. One of my brethren at a local church, which I visit, teaches that when the “Great Tribulation” comes many will turn to God. Is he kidding? I have already seen many humbled by our “Present Global Crisis”. Does he expect an event like “Yellow Stone National Park blowing up” to get people’s attention. If that happens there won’t be many people left alive to turn to God. Remember, God is faithful for he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. (1 Cor. 10: 13) I believe we are in the “Great Tribulation” now.

Nevertheless, Jesus came to heal us, not just in a physical way, but in a spiritual way. Healing the physically blind, the physically deaf and the physically dead was very important, but, subordinate. Jesus and God the Father’s ultimate goal was to heal the world’s “Social Disease”. And to vindicate his words, (which were words primarily pertaining to advocate “Good Deeds” among humanity) Jesus would heal many physical diseases. (Heb. 2: 4) I believe that our “Social Disease” is because of our lack of “good deeds” towards one another! (“Love each other”— St. John 13: 34) And, I believe that “Justification by Faith” has been misunderstood. I highly recommend Robert D. Brinsmead’s essay entitled, “Justification by Faith Re-examined”. Also, Robert D. Brinsmead states in another excellent three part essay entitled, “The Scandal of God’s Justice”:

“Justice (sadaq) is arguably the most important Old Testament word which describes the character and activity of God (see 2 Chron. 12:6; Neh. 9:8; Ps. 7:9; 103:17; 111:3; Jer 9:24; Dan. 9:14; Zeph. 3:5; Zech. 8:8)...Sadaq has to do with relationships...When a party fulfils the demands of a relationship, that party conforms to what ought to be. Then a state of sadaq (justice) exists. Thus, sadaq “concerns the ‘right order of things’— i.e. the correct ordering of the world according to the divine intention.” Thus, some scholars say that justice is conformity to the created order of things. When even weights and measurements are true to what they ought to be, they are said to be sadaq, i.e., just (Lev. 19:36; Ezek. 45:10)”

One must read his three part essay in context to get the full understanding. But to make my point simple the last three quotes above state: *“Thus, sadaq (Justice) “concerns the ‘right order of things’... justice is conformity to the created order of things. When even weights and measurements are true to what they ought to be, they are said to be sadaq, (just).”* These Statements remind me of Jesus’ parable about a fig tree that wouldn’t bear its fruit. The planter of the fig tree asked the caretaker to cut it down, for it did not bear its fruit. (St. Luke 13: 6- 9) I believe Jesus’ point about the fig tree was that the fig tree was not “Justified” or better said, *the fig tree was not true to what it intended to be.* The fig tree would have been known as a fig tree, only if it proved it by its fruits: the figs! And only its fruits would give it “Justification” and save (Salvation) it from being cut down. It is also safe to state that the Fig tree had no integrity in itself, and that it was not faithful *to the ‘right order of things and conformity to the created order of things as divinity intended’* such as an apple tree must bear apples, an orange tree must bear oranges, an olive tree must bear olives...etc.

In addition, the *'right order of things and conformity to the created order of things as divinity intended'* also means that a dairy cow (adult female) must produce milk, a bird with flying wings must fly, and finally our sun must do what it is intended to be and shine its light. Moreover, the *'right order of things and conformity to the created order of things as divinity intended'* is not just applicable to trees, animals or substances, for Jesus came to give "Justification" to people. In Matt. 22: 16 it states of Jesus: "Teacher, they said, "we know you are a man of integrity and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth." Being justified, Jesus could extend that "Justification". Therefore, when God told Jesus to proclaim the unending "Year of Jubilee" to delete all debts (please see: http://greatest1command.com/cd2_jesus_year_of_jubilee.pdf) and Zacchaeus the tax collector initiated it, Jesus gave Zacchaeus "Justification" for his "good deeds" towards his fellow man (Luke 19: 1- 10). Zacchaeus produced good fruits and was faithful to the *'right order of things and conformity to the created order of things as divinity intended'*, he had integrity and he proved his faith, by what he did!

Also, in St. James chapter 2: 14, it reads, "What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him?" Verse 17 states, "In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead." Also, verse 18 says, "But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I "do". In addition, verse 22 states, "You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made "complete" by what he "did". And, verse 24 says, "You see that a person is justified by what he "does" and not by faith alone. And finally verse 26 concludes, "As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead."

The analogy of a tree is a great teaching tool from every day life. John the Baptist used it too. Not only is a tree conformed to produce its fruit, but it must produce 'good' fruits as oppose to 'bad' ones. John states in Matt. 3: 10, "The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. Is John only concerned with trees, no, of course not; therefore we humans are all like trees and must produce good fruits, which of course correlates to "good deeds". Jesus says the same thing about bearing good fruits, Matt. 7: 19 & 20 says: **"19) Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20) Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them."**

Evermore, in the judgment of the world Jesus' clearly portrays what will take place. In Mathew chapter 25 verses 31 through 46 Jesus speaks of the Sheep and the Goats. The Sheep receive "Justification" because they did "good deeds" towards their fellowman when they feed, invited strangers, clothed and visited the sick. But the Goats, like the Sheep, also called Jesus "Lord", but– NO "good deeds"; they went away to eternal death. In addition, in the New International Version, Jesus' exhorting letters to five out of the seven churches in the book of Revelation basically begin with reference to him knowing their deeds. Revelation chapter 2: 2 states, **I know your "deeds", your hard work and your perseverance....19) I know your "deeds", your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now "doing" more than you "did" at first.** Chapter 3 verse 1 states, **"I know your "deeds"; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead....8) I know your "deeds".** And verse 15) **I know your "deeds", that you are neither cold nor hot.** In addition, Revelation chapter 20 verses 12 and 13 clearly states, **"12)...The dead were judged according to what they had "done" as recorded in the books. 13)...and each person was judged according to what he had "done".** Even of the judgment the Apostle Paul states in Romans 2: 5 & 6, **"...5) when his righteous judgment will be revealed. 6) God "will give to each person according to what he has "done".**" "Finally, Philippians 2: 12 states: **...continue to "work" out your salvation with fear and trembling....** So you see, its all about "doing"! The word "Faith" wasn't mentioned, because it is a given, when there is a presence of "good deeds".

In contrast, "Tradition" comes along and pulls the legs right from under the church members, which includes the legs of the pastors and priests. "Tradition" won't enter the kingdom and it won't let anyone else enter either. (Matt. 23: 13) The most famous "Traditional" dogma comes from Romans chapter 10 verses 9 & 10 which states, **9) That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10) For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.** – The last part states that with your "heart" you are justified! First, many don't really believe Jesus physically rose from the dead. And second, for many it becomes just a mental confession, and it reaches down into their hearts which would make love possible. Thus, we shall add to clarify Romans 9 & 10: **"And it is with your bodily actions towards your fellowman which proves you have faith, for believing in Jesus means to believe in his cause, his ways and his ideals, not just in his name or even believing just in his person. If**

a person cannot “do” or and even confess that Salvation is completed and proven by “good deeds” that person does not have Faith!

An elder at the local church I visit preaches that in the “Lords Prayer” Jesus wasn’t praying for heaven on earth in his generation, but for his second coming (I guess he’s too comfortable in his religion and his occupation). He confuses his churchy works with the horizontal “good deeds” towards ones fellowman, which I have elaborated on at the end of this essay. And what I mean by “churchy” works is obvious, for example: pilgrimages, asceticism, going to church, tithing, singing songs, and feeding the homeless through and by the church with the motive to indoctrinate them into their denominational system. These actions stem from the “Old” vertical perception of God. Churchy works will not let heaven materialize on earth; for this is falsehood, and anyone who preaches falsehood will not enter the kingdom of heaven. (Rev. 22: 15) Jesus tried very hard, even on to death, to create heaven on earth in his first coming. Why would Jesus preach so much about doing “good deeds” among each other, in his generation, if he was looking for “good deeds” in the future? I believe Jesus’ prayer was more than just a prayer; it was an objective for Jesus. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth, in his day. (Matt. 6: 10) Jesus stated in Matthew 12: 28, “But if I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

Also, we believe that when Jesus affirms that if one believes in him, one surely would not die. St. John 11: 25 & 26 reads, “Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; 26) and whoever lives and believes in me will “never” die. Do you believe this?” – The part in verse 25 that states, “...even though he dies” refers to martyrs. But for the rest, it literally means what is written in St. Mark 10: 29 & 30, ““I tell you the truth,” Jesus replied, “no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel 30) will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age (homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—and with them, persecutions) and in the age to come, eternal life.”” – Once again, is the age to come a future event? Was Jesus preaching for the distant future or the immediate future? I believe Jesus was thinking that within his life time heaven could take place on earth. I now see what Jesus was getting at, and that is, that if you can overcome (like he states in each of the seven letters in Revelation chapters 2, 3) your selfishness and ego, there’s a trade-off. That trade-off would be that I will ask the father to give you the Holy Spirit eternally and you will not age and see death, NOW! This reminds me of Michael Jackson’s song “Man in the Mirror”; if you want to change the world take a look at your self and make a change. Unfortunately, everyone died in Jesus’ generation. This proves that they did not take Jesus at his word, for they lacked integrity and Faith proven by “good deeds”.

Therefore, we don’t have to have all the sufferings, for we can “do” something about our “Present Global Crisis”. Contrary to contemporary Christianity’s belief, “good deeds” towards one another is the answer. This proves your faith. If a person cannot confess this, it is because they are actually lacking in faith. As St. James wrote, “What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him?” (St. James 2: 14) Christians are like a weight lifter who wants muscles without lifting weights. Also, “good deeds” will give you “Justification” for you will be acting in “Faith” to the ‘*right order of things and conformity to the created order of things as divinity intended*’. Besides the fruits of the spirit from Gal. 5: 22 & 23, let me describe the “good deeds” in elaborated terms. The following quotes are from our Doc. # 3: [“*Seek first the Kingdom of Heaven/Community and its Righteousness/Love, and the healthy community will seek and take care of you; and you’ll receive twice as much of cars, homes, land, children and educations in this life, which will conclude with eternal life. (Matt. 6: 33 & 19: 29) (Mark 10: 29, 30) (Luke 18: 29, 30)]* And from Doc. #7: “*On an individual level, everyone should deny one’s self and seek the well being of the community.*” *To those who have personalized services and small retails he would say, “Give discounts more often.” And to the bigger services and merchants he would say, “Start lowering your prices, whether it is gas prices, house rentals, or even the price of milk. Remember what Spirit Airlines in Florida did on Sept. 11, 2002 when everyone flew for free; giving a new meaning to being “Free Spirited!” Still to others, he would also say, “Get involved with your nearest town meeting and voice yourself on how to make your community a healthier place to work and live.”]* Galatians 5: 11 states, “In that case the offense of the cross has been abolished.” The Gospel, which is all about “good deeds”, is very offensive, for it offends the un-spiritual and un-deedful person. It can also torment those lacking in “good deeds”. No wonder they will kill the two Lampstands of Rev. 11: 4. (Rev. 11: 7- 12); for they will lay bare the secrets of peoples hearts. (1 Cor. 14: 25)

In conclusion, together we can change this world and live in hope, faith and love. As I stated in an earlier document: [Jesus posed the question in St. Luke 18: 8, “However, when the son of man comes, will he find faith on the earth?” We say with great optimism, yes!]

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