

"The Salvation Which is in Christ Jesus"

(2 Timothy 2:10)

Lesson Ten: "Work Out Your Own Salvation."

Introduction. We have seen that salvation in Christ is not something human beings can merit (Titus 3:4-6), but we have also seen that a condition of accepting God's grace is striving to faithfully abide in the word of Christ (John 8:31). Let's explore some of what the Bible teaches about what this means and how it is defined.

I. Paul's Charge to the Philippians.

A. Read Philippians 2:5-13. As Paul urges them to obey in his "absence," to whose example does he appeal? _____

1. What did this person do? _____
   _____
   _____

B. Explain in your own words the phrase "work out your own salvation": _____
   _____
   _____

1. Why isn't this meritorious salvation? _____
   _____
2. What attitude does Paul say must accompany this?_____
   _____
3. Explain how one does this: _____
   _____

C. To whom does Paul teach we should attribute our good works when we do them in Christ?_____
   _____

1. Does this mean God forces us to act apart from our own choices? Why or why not?_____
   _____

II. The Stewardship of Christians.

A. Read 1 Peter 4:10-11 and 1 Corinthians 4:1-2. How do Peter and Paul describe Christians? _____

1. Explain the function of one who does this work?_____

_____
_____

2. What does Paul say is "required" of stewards? _____
_____

B. What are some ways Peter describes fulfilling this stewardship? _____
_____

1. Explain the phrase "stewards of the manifold grace of God"? _____
_____
_____

2. How does one "speak as the oracles of God"? _____
_____

C. Read 1 Corinthians 4:3-5. Whom does Paul say he does not judge? _____

1. If a Christian speaks "as the oracles of God" is he judging another person? Why or why not? _____
_____

2. If a Christian fails to faithfully uphold God's word to the world around him is he a faithful steward of "the manifold grace of God?" Why or why not? _____
_____

III. Faithfulness is not Flawlessness.

A. Sadly, many Christians who recognize the importance of faithfulness often imagine that this means that we are only acceptable before God if we attain flawless obedience. While it is our duty to obey, no one will ever flawlessly attain this goal.

B. In our previous lesson we discussed the High Priesthood of Christ. Read 1 John 2:1-2. If faithfulness is flawlessness why would Christians need Jesus as our Advocate?
_____

1. Does this mean Christians should just act however they choose? _____
_____
_____

C. Let's notice some things that characterize the faithful Christian.

1. Read Hebrews 10:24-25? What does a faithful Christian do and why? _____
_____

2. Read Hebrews 13:17. What does a faithful Christian do and why? _____
_____

3. Read 1 Timothy 4:6-7. What does a faithful Christian do and why? _____
_____

4. If I identify myself with people who do not do these things am I faithful? Why or why not? _____
_____

Conclusion. We could discuss many other things that also characterize the faithful Christian, but we must understand that acceptance of the grace of God demands that each of us strive to be faithful servants of our Lord and Master. None of us will ever attain this flawlessly but it is our duty to continue the effort to serve Him. This is how we show God our love for God and how we accept His love and grace for us.