

How Salvations "Works" 3-9-14

In Romans 8:28 Paul described how all things work together for our good. In context, he speaks about the workings of our salvation. How do we describe Salvation? We might describe it as three events: to remove the guilt of sin, to enter into a relationship with God, and to maintain that relationship with God.

In understanding salvation, we need to understand three parts. First, God has given Grace (Ephesians 2:8). Second, God has given blood (1 Peter 1:18-19), and finally, God has given us knowledge (2 Timothy 3:15). This is God's part of Salvation. But that is not all that salvation is about. As a sinner, we must have faith in what the Bible says, confess that faith (Romans 10:9), convert to that faith and be baptized (Acts 2:38). Yet that too is not the end of the matter. As a Saint (one who is saved) we must grow in grace and knowledge (2 Peter 3:17-18). As well, we must remain faithful until the end (Matthew 24:13)

So how does all of this work? How can ALL of these things save us? We might ask how can salvation be a "free gift" and yet at the same time how can salvation come by works? We will answer this by using an analogy: getting to Heaven is just like getting to Seattle. For both I need a path, I need a means of locomotion, and I need to drive.

First, let's understand that God's grace established a road. This is the great part of salvation, that part that has been freely given. There is one highway between here and Seattle. It cost many millions of dollars, and none of us could have afforded it. So it is with the plan of salvation. The blood of Christ paid for a road we could not. It is the free-way, the free gift of God. The Holy Spirit has revealed all things for this path. Just like a map and road signs, He has provided all things needed for this path.

However, we are still not in Seattle. We know that we must drive. Our car is our life, and it is driven by faith. Faith is not believing only, but works too Faith without works is dead; a car without an engine is dead. So our car of faith is driven by an engine of works. We might also say that it is moved on repentance (Acts 2:38). So without these "wheels", it is not going to run. Finally, we need a key. It is something that brings the car to "life". Baptism is such a key, transforming a dead sinner to a living saint (1 Peter 3:21).

Yet even now, with our car started, we are not there. We need to actually drive to Seattle. This requires patient endurance, which we might liken to Gasoline. It requires obedience to the rules of the road, which is the Holy Spirit's revealed word of truth. We are not in Seattle until the end of the journey. So it is with heaven.



Thus, all things work together to bring us to heaven. God has paid the cost of salvation, yet we still have conditions to meet to travel the road He has purchased. We must be obedient to the Holy Spirit (the Bible) to arrive.