

**DIRECTION 6**  
**PART 2**  
**(SALVATION BY WORKS OF THE LAW REFUTED)**

**SUMMARY:** If you try to obey the commands of Christ in order to earn your salvation, and to gain assurance of your salvation, you are seeking salvation by the works of the law. You are not seeking your salvation through faith in Christ, as He is revealed in the Gospel. If you try to earn your salvation by your true obedience, you will never succeed. p. 77

**INTRODUCTION:**

A. RELIGION'S VIEW OF SALVATION

All religious people and world religions teach that living a holy and righteous life earns God's favor and eternal life. All hope that God will pardon their failures and accept them because they tried the best they could to obey him. p. 77 (NOTE: Great opening paragraph on p. 77)

B. THE WISDOM OF THE WORLD VS. THE WISDOM OF GOD

"If you think you can earn your salvation by your obedience, you are thinking according to the corrupt wisdom of the world...The doctrine of salvation by works does not come from the wisdom of the Spirit of God...(1 Cor. 2:6, 7, 9, 14)." p. 77

C. ORIGINAL SIN AND SALVATION BY WORKS

Because of original sin, we are wired for the law and not the Gospel! "The system of salvation by works is part of fallen man's very bones-their minds are totally captivated by it. Therefore it is very difficult for them to leave it." pp. 77-78

D. THE CENTRALITY OF JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH ALONE

"Justification by faith has always been considered by Evangelical Protestants to be the central doctrine of our faith!" pp. 78-79

E. ONE MAIN PROBLEM WITH SALVATION BY WORKS

"...it proclaims a way of salvation through the works of the law, and not through faith in Christ and the Gospel. p. 79

F. WAYS PEOPLE MAKE THE FALSE GOSPEL LOOK LIKE THE TRUE GOSPEL, pp. 79-80

**PROPOSITION:** 6 REASONS WHY SALVATION BY WORKS OF THE LAW IS A FALSE WAY OF SALVATION (PP. 80-90) AND 7 REASONS WHY ONE CANNOT POSSIBLY ATTAIN TRUE HOLINESS BY WORKS OF THE LAW (PP. 90-99)

**LESSON:**

- I. 6 REASONS WHY SALVATION BY WORKS OF THE LAW IS A FALSE WAY OF SALVATION: PP. 80-90
- A. IF YOU SEEK TO EARN YOUR SALVATION BY SINCERELY TRYING TO DO GOOD WORKS, YOU ARE CONDEMNED (CF., ROM. 9:32; GAL. 3:10-14; 5:4). pp. 80-82
- B. REMEMBER THE BASIC DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE LAW AND GOSPEL. pp. 82-83

"IT IS NOT THAT THE LAW REQUIRES PERFECT OBEDIENCE AND THE GOSPEL SINCERE OBEDIENCE. RATHER THE DIFFERENCE IS THIS: THE LAW REQUIRES DOING AND THE GOSPEL REQUIRES NOT DOING. THE GOSPEL REQUIRES BELIEVING FOR LIFE AND SALVATION." P. 82

- C. IF YOU TRULY WANT TO SINCERELY OBEY ALL THE COMMANDS OF CHRIST GIVEN IN THE GOSPEL, YOU ARE ALSO OBLIGED TO KEEP THE MORAL LAW GIVEN BY MOSES. pp. 83-86
1. JESUS REQUIRED PERFECT OBEDIENCE TO THE MORAL DUTIES OF THE LAW OF MOSES (MATT. 5:17-19; 7:12; MATT. 23:2-3; LK. 10:26-28), PP. 83-84
  2. THE APOSTLES OF CHRIST REQUIRED PERFECT OBEDIENCE TO THE MORAL DUTIES OF THE LAW OF MOSES (ROM. 13:8; EPH. 6:2; 1 JOHN 2; JAMES 2:8-11), PP. 84-85
- D. THOSE WHO TRY TO GAIN CHRIST'S SALVATION BY SINCERELY TRYING TO OBEY ALL THE COMMANDS OF CHRIST ACT CONTRARY TO THE TRUE WAY OF SALVATION GIVEN BY CHRIST. pp. 86-88

THEY ACT CONTRARY IN 3 WAYS:

1. THEY ACT CONTRARY TO THE WAY OF SALVATION BY CHRIST ALONE. P. 86
2. THE BIBLE TEACHES THAT THERE IS A COMPLETE OPPOSITION BETWEEN SALVATION BY GRACE AND SALVATION BY WORKS, CF., ROM. 4:6, 13, 16; 11:6; EPH. 2:9. P. 87

3. THOSE WHO TRY TO BE SAVED BY SINCERELY OBEYING THE LAW ARE SIMPLY ACTING CONTRARY TO THE WAY OF SALVATION BY FAITH, (ROM. 3:27; 4:5; EPH. 2:8-9), p. 87

E. CHRIST AND HIS APOSTLES NEVER TAUGHT A GOSPEL THAT REQUIRES WORKS AS A CONDITION OF SALVATION. pp. 88-89

1. Romans 2:6-7- Paul is not declaring the terms of the Gospel. Rather, he is declaring the terms of the law to prove that both Jews and Gentiles alike are all under sin, and that no one can be justified by the works of the law. p. 88
2. James 2:24- James is not speaking of true saving faith but of a dead faith that the devils have. He is not speaking being justified in term of "how you get saved before God." Rather, he is speaking of the declaration and manifestation of your justification by the fruits that you have in your life. Authentic saving faith always produces the fruit of good works. p. 88
3. Revelation 22:14- The Greek word translated, "right" actually means power or privilege. The title to Christ and his glorious salvation are given totally apart from works, but that good works are the way in which we are to walk once we have received Christ's salvation. p. 89
4. Some argue that the happiness of heaven is called a "reward."- The happiness of heaven is called a "reward" because it is given after people do good works. However, it is a reward given by grace, not given by obligation (Rom. 4:4). It is not wages paid for labor, but it is a free gift (Rom. 6:23).

F. If you try to obey God in order to earn the right to gain Christ and his salvation, you will never be able to truly obey God at all by these labors. pp. 89-90

II. 7 REASONS WHY ONE CANNOT POSSIBLY ATTAIN TRUE HOLINESS BY WORKS OF THE LAW: PP. 90-99

A. THE WAY OF SALVATION BY THE WORKS OF THE LAW COMPLETELY DESTROYS WHAT IS REQUIRED FOR TRUE HOLINESS OF LIFE. pp. 90-92

- B. THOSE WHO SEEK SALVATION BY THE WORKS OF THE LAW INEVITABLY ACT OUT OF THEIR NATURAL STATE, OR THEIR OLD NATURE. p. 92-93
- C. THE LAW SHOWS YOU THAT YOU HAVE NO STRENGTH IN YOUR NATURAL STATE AND IT GIVES NO STRENGTH TO FULFILL ITS OWN COMMANDS, CF., GAL. 3:21. pp. 93-94
- D. NOW THAT HUMANS HAVE FALLEN AND HAVE BECOME TOTALLY CORRUPT, THE WAY OF GAINING LIFE AND HAPPINESS BY GOOD WORKS NO LONGER MAKES ANY SENSE. p. 94
- E. THE LAW DOES NOT HEAL YOUR SINFUL CORRUPTION. RATHER, IT ACTUALLY STIRS UP SINFUL INCLINATIONS AND ACTIONS IN THOSE WHO SEEK SALVATION ACCORDING TO THE WORKS OF THE LAW, CF., ROM. 7:5, 14. pp. 95-97
- F. THE WAY OF SALVATION BY WORKS WAS TOTALLY RUINED BY THE CURSE THAT WAS ANNOUNCED AGAINST THE FIRST ADAM'S SIN. pp. 97-98
- G. GOD NEVER GAVE THE LAW TO MOSES FOR ANYONE TO GAIN SALVATION OR HOLINESS BY SINCERELY OR PERFECTLY OBEYING IT. pp. 98-99

One must remember the context in which the Law of Moses was given. p. 98

The Mosaic Covenant was given:

1. So Israel would see its sinfulness and subjection to death and wrath, p. 98
2. So that the spirit of bondage might restrain sin, until the coming of the promised seed, Jesus Christ, and the more plentiful outpouring of the sanctifying Spirit by Christ. (Note: All of the preceding comments are based on Galatians 3:15-24; Romans 5:20-21; Romans 10:3-4). p. 98

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