

“Knowing that a man is NOT justified by the works of the Law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.” *Galatians 2:16no3 KJV*



Salvation doesn't depend on deeds, but on the sinless Lamb of God “who died and gave Himself for you.” YOUR good deeds, add no merit whatsoever to your eternal destiny! Only works of willing obedience through “the faith of Jesus Christ” will be rewarded. If you have not yet called on Christ to save your soul, you are still dead in “trespasses and sins, condemned already, because [you] have NOT believed.” Faith trusts and obeys God's Word and will receive rewards for works done through faith. Any human effort to please a Holy God is worthless. “All our righteousnesses are as filthy rags.” It gives great peace to know believers need not fret about worthiness before God, because “our life is hid with Christ in God and no man can pluck you out of His hand,” not even you! What is the point of obedience? Obedience is how we draw near to God. “Draw nigh to God and He will draw nigh to you.” Paul described it as, “Joy unspeakable and full of glory!” If you would know God's presence, it is attained through willing obedience driven by unrestrained love of the Saviour. As Paul put it, “The love of Christ constraineth me!” God's Word is the portal to His presence! Jesus said, “I am...the Truth. Ye shall know the Truth and the Truth shall MAKE you free!”

Ev'ry promise in the Book is mine!  
Ev'ry chapter, ev'ry verse, ev'ry line!  
All are blessings of His Love Divine!  
Ev'ry promise in the Book is mine! ~Unknown

Until you see God's Word as written to you, personally, you will not know Him nor receive rewards at the Judgment Seat of Christ. If you rest your hope in who Christ is and what He has done for you, you will KNOW the “Joy of Salvation.” I do not have to “try to be a Palmer.” I was born a Palmer. All those “born again of the Spirit” are blood relations of God by virtue of the shed Blood of the Lamb of God and the gift of faith given to every man through the preaching of God's Word! You can't earn it, but you can spurn it by being disobedient. If you receive no punishment in this life, then you are not God's child! “For whom the Lord loveth HE chasteneth, and scourgeth EVERY son whom He receiveth.” Troubles are usually from disobedience, but if you've asked the Holy Spirit to search your heart and reveal hidden sin, He will, if you read and study God's Word. Ignorance of it is NO excuse for we are commanded to “meditate therein day and night.” God's Word is His commands to all men, believer or not. Even Christ, “though He were a Son...learned...obedience by the things which He suffered.” If you are sure there is nothing hidden before God, endure the trial with patience, for there is a future purpose to it. You may need to help another through similar trial or perhaps God is testing your faith and love. Abraham was asked to sacrifice his only son, but God never intended that he should; it was just a test. Love will endure all for the object of its affection! God may need you to see some lack of love on your part. Many saints await you in Heaven!

“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him that endured such contradiction of sinners against Himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.” *Hebrews 12:1-3 KJV*