

Monday, September 26, 2016

One of the ongoing battles within the Christian community is the debate about faith and works. One group says it's a person's faith entirely that saves them, even if there are no works present in their lives. They will support their claim with:

**Ephes. 2:8-9 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.***

Another group will say that it is a person's faithful deeds, their righteous works that God will evaluate at the judgment. They quickly quote:

Romans 2:6 who WILL RENDER TO EACH PERSON ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS:

Or how about:

**1 Cor. 3:13 each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is *to be* revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work.**

Sadly, this is an unnecessary battle which can only lead to division and bitterness in the Body of Christ. The Bible has already given us the answer; ***Both are essential.*** Faith in Christ is the necessary requirement for salvation. That's true. But if faith is indeed present in a person's life, then works must be present as well. If there are no works, there is no faith.

**James 2:21-22 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar? You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, faith was perfected;**

It isn't a matter of either/or, but both/and. Faith in the completed work of Jesus Christ is what works salvation in the child of God. But if sincere faith is present, it will, and **must** show itself in an active life of good works. As James states later in that same chapter:

**James 2:26 For just as the body without *the* spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.**