

Do Works Matter? Hebrews 5:7-9

Longer passages are not quoted in the study sheet, but they can be read in the accompanying transcript.

If we're saved by grace and not by works, does it matter _____ we live? Does God take _____ of our behavior after we become Christians? Jesus said, "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the _____ of my Father who is in heaven" (Matthew 7:21). If you wish to _____ the kingdom of heaven, then you must do the Father's will. The Scriptures teach us His will, and that is the _____ we study them from week to week.

If there's one thing a Christian can affirm, it's this: we're _____ by grace. Our salvation comes as a _____ from God and cannot be earned. Ephesians 2:8-10 says, "For by grace you have been saved through _____. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of _____, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for _____ works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." God saves us to transform our lives and to _____ us in the paths of righteousness. We are His workmanship; and He transforms us so that we can live godly lives and perform good works.

What happens when a Christian presumes upon the grace of God and thinks he can live as he _____? What happens when he fails to _____ his life? Do our works matter? Will God _____ our behavior? Can a Christian lose his inheritance and _____ away from God's grace? If the grace of God is a gift, how does God expect us to _____ to that gift? To hear some talk, you'd think, salvation has no conditions and makes no requirements. What do the Scriptures say? We want the mind of Christ to _____ us.

Our reading today comes from Hebrews 5:7-9. It takes us back to the garden of Gethsemane, to the _____ of Jesus and His willingness to submit to the will of His Father. That shows the great love and the great willingness to be _____ that was in our Lord Jesus and what we need as well.

There are two things about works that can _____ save us. First, no one can _____ his salvation. No one can say to God that He is _____ to us. Romans 4:4 says, "Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his _____." We're saved as a _____; and even if we served for a thousand lifetimes, we couldn't earn our salvation. We've _____ against God; our salvation is because of His grace. Titus 3:4-5 says, "But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own _____, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit." We cannot save ourselves by ourselves. It's the grace of God that provides the _____ way that anyone can be saved.

Second, we can't be saved by the works of the _____. Paul wrote in Galatians 2:16, "yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through _____ in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified." He adds, "I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness were through the law, (the Law of Moses) then Christ died for no _____" (Galatians 2:21). Paul was specifically referring to the Jews binding the Law of Moses upon the Gentile Christians.

Paul explained, "Likewise, my brothers, you also have _____ to the law (Moses' Law) through the body of Christ, so that you may _____ to another, to him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God" (Romans 7:4). You might ask what law was he speaking about. Paul answers that in verse 6. "But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve in the _____ way of the Spirit and not in the _____ way of the written code." Here he was speaking of the old covenant or Old Testament law, the Law that said, "You shall not _____" (Romans 7:7).

If we belong to Christ and are _____ from the Law of Moses, are we under any as Christians? The answer to that question is _____. Galatians 6:2 says, "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of _____." There's also a law of Christ that we have to think about! **Read what Paul explains in 1 Corinthians 9:19-22.** Paul respected and obeyed the law of Christ as he tried to _____ people to Christ.

James also recognizes a law of Christ. "For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it. For he who said, 'Do not commit adultery,' also said, 'Do not murder.' If you do not commit adultery but do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of _____" (James 2:10-12). Unlike the Law of Moses, the law of Christ was a _____ law, a law of liberty, a law that liberates us to _____ in righteousness. We must _____ the Lord Jesus.

Our obedience to the Lord matters. Hebrews 5:8-9 says, "Although he was a son, (the son of God) he _____ obedience through what he suffered. And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who _____ him." There simply is no _____ for those who do not obey the Lord.

Read what the Bible says in 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9. When people fail to know the Lord or fail to obey what the Lord says, they _____ the consequences of removal from the presence of God. Yes, it matters whether we obey!

The Lord Jesus said, "For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and will then _____ every man according to his deeds" (Matthew 16:27). Second Corinthians 5:10 says clearly, "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may _____ what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil." Revelation 20:12 reveals the judgment scene, "And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened,

which is the book of life. And the dead were _____ by what was written in the books, according to what they had done.” Yes, God will judge us by our _____. The Lord makes that very clear!

We don't want to lose God's _____. Paul demonstrated by his life how he _____ the grace of God. He said, “Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, _____ to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in _____. On the contrary, I worked _____ than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me” (1 Corinthians 15:8-10). Paul demonstrated his love and his gratitude for the grace of God by working harder than any of them. I ask, how have you _____ to God's grace?

Yes, how we live matters. **Read Romans 2:3-11.** My friend, don't imagine that you are the _____ and that God does not see how you live.

Some will argue with Jesus at the judgment, thinking that they will be saved because of their religious _____ but ignoring the Lord's teaching and instructions. The Lord Jesus said, “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will _____ the kingdom of heaven, but the one who _____ the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; _____ from me, you workers of lawlessness’” (Matthew 7:21-23). Their religious activity didn't exclude them from obeying the _____ of the Father. Iniquity is lawlessness; it's the setting aside of God's instructions so that you do as you _____. They were rejected for this reason.

The Lord Jesus also recognizes how we _____ others and whether we're willing to _____ others. The Lord said, “For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will _____ forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses” (Matthew 6:14-15). Perhaps you recall the parable of the unforgiving servant in Matthew 18. Even though the king graciously forgave him his _____ of ten thousand talents, a huge amount of money, he ruthlessly _____ to forgive a fellow servant's debt of only 100 denarii. The Lord said, “Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. And should not you have had mercy on your _____ servant, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your _____” (Matthew 18:32-35). God treats us the way we treat other people.

James 2:14-19 says, “What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has _____ but does not have _____? Can that faith _____ him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace, be warmed and filled,’ without _____ them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it

does not have works, is _____. But someone will say, 'You have faith and I have works.' Show me your faith _____ from your works, and I will show you my faith _____ my works. You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!" Just because someone _____ to believe doesn't mean that his faith is _____. He must show his faith by his works. James 2:20-26 continues, "Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is _____? Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he _____ up his son Isaac on the altar? You see that faith was _____ along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, 'Abraham believed God, and it was _____ to him as righteousness'—and he was called a friend of God. You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith _____. And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute _____ by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also _____ apart from works is dead."

Does your _____ demonstrate your faith and love for God? Can people _____ by the way that you live that you have a commitment to the cause of Christ? Faith without works is dead. Is your faith alive and well? Please don't presume upon the grace of Christ, if you're not willing to put your faith into _____.

On judgment day, I want to _____ my Lord say what the master said, "Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a _____; I will set you over _____. Enter into the _____ of your master" (Matthew 25:23). Will the Lord say "well done" to you? How we _____ demonstrates what we are and whether we believe. Don't tell me you believe, if your life doesn't demonstrate your faith. That's from the Scriptures.

The apostle John talked about how we _____ or how we live in his first epistle. John said, "If we say we have fellowship with him (God) while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not _____ the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the _____ of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin" (1 John 1:6-7). How you choose to live will determine whether you are in fellowship with God and whether the blood of Jesus will _____ you from sin. Please do not presume upon the grace of God and live like it does not matter. For people who go on sinning willfully there comes a point in time, according to Hebrews 10:26-27, that the _____ of God no longer matters.

We need fellowship with God, and people get into that fellowship when they _____ the gospel and put their _____ in Jesus Christ. Their faith and love lead them to _____ of their sins, to _____ Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and to be _____ in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of their sins. Our baptism into Christ is through an immersion in water. At that time, God _____ away our sins through the shed blood of our Lord Jesus. As long as we walk in the light and remain faithful, that blood _____ to wash away our sin. Should we turn from the light and walk in darkness, we _____ to have God's fellowship and forgiveness. My friend, are you walking in the light?