
It Is What We Do!!

Radio Message by Dwight Porter, D.D.

Realizing the pew reflects the pulpit, it is evident that we are in great need of Divine intervention in comprehension of TRUTH. Poor Bible teaching has caught up with us. One glimpse of the Spiritual confusion that has left so many Christians in frustration indicates a great lack of understanding God's dealing with man. For instance, many fail to recognize that which condemns us before a Holy God. It is easy to say we go to hell for that which we do not do, because of a lack of faith. How contrary to the Scriptures. What does the Bible say about it? Keep reading!

The First Sin

The first sin in the Bible was the action of Lucifer in Heaven. "How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I WILL ascend into heaven. I WILL exalt my throne above the stars of God: I WILL sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I WILL ascend above the heights of the clouds; I WILL be like the most High" Isaiah 14: 12, 14.

Adam and Eve were literally driven out of the perfect place God had provided for them. "Therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life" Gen. 3:23,24. Why were they driven out? They rebelled against the known will of God.

The perfect place called a Garden had laws involving positives and negatives presented by the Ruler of the Universe. His will was revealed to man long before Moses, even in his perfect state. The resentment of man to the "NO" of God is still evident in the day in which we live. We hear almost daily in all walks of life, "Don't tell me what to do!"

It is significant that Adam, Eve, and the serpent were called into an account for their actions. "And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? HAST THOU EATEN of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat? And the man said, The woman whom who gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. And the Lord God said unto the woman, What is this that THOU HAST DONE? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat. And the Lord God said unto the serpent, Because THOU HAST DONE this thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:" Genesis 3:11-14.

Just as Adam and Eve gave an account for their actions, God demands the same from all of us. "And the Lord said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: Am I my brother's keeper? And he said What HAST THOU DONE? The voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground" Genesis 4:9,10. God makes no distinction between the actions and the condition of the sinner. Only man endeavors to do so, when he says God hates man's sin but loves the sinner. Why not separate the criminal from his crime and punish just the crime and let the criminal go free? Man is a sinner and is personally responsible for his sin, which is evident in what he does. "Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die" Ezekiel 18:4.

Paul's message in Romans began with the WRATH OF GOD, not His love. "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness" Romans 1:18.

Unless we see ourselves under God's wrath, we have no need of His mercy. No glimpse of Grace will be the portion of the individual who is not under God's wrath. No Salvation is available to the individual until by faith he sees himself as a sinner and realized that Christ has taken upon Himself the judgment deserved by the acknowledged sinner. The message of the Gospel is that Christ died for sinners.

It is WHAT we do that sends us to Hell. Yes, we have inherited the Adamic sin, but also are held responsible for our personal sins that will damn us forever. In verses 12 and 3 in the book of Revelation, 20th chapter, we find the following words: "And they were judged, every man ACCORDING TO THEIR WORKS."

For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be ACCORDING TO THEIR WORKS" II Cor. 11:13-15.

Absolute Authority

We will never receive proper direction from God unless we are under His authority. Satan wanted Adam and Eve to repudiate it. He desired them to choose what was good for themselves, whether it was evil in the sight of God or not. Here is the real battle of our day. Who will have authority? God or ourselves? Remember authority means subjection and absolute domination, demanding obedience.

God is to have absolute authority over man. "But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die" Genesis 2:17.

Man is to maintain authority over the woman. "Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence" I Timothy 2:11, 12.

The husband is to have authority over his wife. This is a great responsibility for which we will answer to God. "Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God. Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it" Ephesians 5:21-25. "Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee" Genesis 3:16.

Parents are to maintain authority over their children and are responsible for it as are the children themselves. "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath; but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" Ephesians 6:1-4.

But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain; (capital punishment) for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil" Romans 13:1-4.

Christ's Word

We do nothing in order to be saved. It is the work of the Regenerating Power of the Holy Spirit within our heart. When the Philippian Jailer wanted to do something in order to be saved, he was informed that his trust must be placed in the work of the LORD JESUS CHRIST. The Repentance and Faith that God

requires of us is a gift from him. We are saved by the work of Jesus Christ in our behalf on the cross. Sin is that which we do. Righteous supplied is the work of Christ and is the gift of God. So it is with Eternal life. "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" Romans 6:28.

Action for Believers

With great concern we urge people to recognize correct doctrine. We spend time warning people against works in order to be saved. This is needed, but why continue to disregard works after we are saved: The Bible plainly tells us what we will do and that which we will not do afterward. Good works, produced by the Spirit of God within us, are evident the moment we are born of God. "Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him" I John 5:1.

We can be assured of obtaining from the Lord the provisions He has promised on the basis of our action. The Bible is filled with direction for all believers. They are communicated in the way of commandments. Their importance is so great that they are mentioned in the final words of Jesus Christ just prior to His leaving this earth to return to His Father. "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen." Matt. 28:20.

Action of Peace

Few people realize the possessing the peace of God is directly involved in our course of action. Why do we wait for some mysterious feeling to creep over us? Since when is peace the consequence of a change in environmental factors? It is the consequence of what we do. After full instruction from God through the Apostle Paul we read, "Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, DO: and the God of peace shall be with you" Phil 4:9. One of the most neglected words and yet the most important is in this verse. What is it? Just two letters! "DO"

Here is the promise for those who obey: "And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" Phil 4:7.

For the poor self-conscious souls, who think they are an exception to God and His Bible, please remember we can do anything God directs. We are without an excuse for the promise of ability to perform is coupled with the Power of Christ. "I can DO all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" Phil. 4:13.

What to Do

The Bible has told us what to do and how to accomplish the directions given. "And whatsoever ye DO, DO it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men" Col.3:23. "And whatsoever ye DO in word of deed, DO all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him" Col 3:17.

Can we do everything God has instructed? Yes! In the Power of the Resurrected Christ! But what if I do not know what to do? It cannot be God's fault; for His Word is clear and plain. If you fail to follow Divine directions, such waste of time and energy will add to your inward confusion and frustration. It is what we DO!! How dare we endeavor to exercise trust in God's promises independent of His directions? Actions of obedience are a demonstration of our faith. God does not meet our need because of our obedience. He keeps His Word because His promises were made and declared to us in sovereignty. His love and motivation for our welfare prompted all actions toward our temporal and eternal benefit. "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. Of His own will begat he us with the word of truth, and we should be a find of first fruits of his creatures" James 1:17, 18.

Very clearly indicated is the faith acceptable to God produces good works, "What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? Can faith save Him? Even so faith, if it hath no works, is dead, being alone. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?" James 2: 14, 17, 20.

Sinner's Action

We do nothing in order to be saved. It is the work of the Regenerating Power of the Holy Spirit that produces an inward miracle. "For by grace are ye saved through Faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast" Eph. 2:8, 9.

When the Philippian jailer wanted to do something in order to be saved, he was informed that his trust must be placed in the work of the Lord Jesus Christ. "And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house" Act 16:30, 31. Eternal Life is a gift from God through His Son. "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" Romans 6:23.

God commands us to repent and believe. We can do it with His help for both are a gift from Him. He supplies all He demands of us. Are you willing to repent? Then God will enable you to do so. Will you trust in Christ, acknowledging your inability to render any act acceptable to a Holy God? Then through the Word of God, He will communicate faith to you. "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" Romans 10:17.

The Real You

What you do reveals what you are. "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass" James 2:22, 23.

People go to hell for what they do. Jesus Christ changes any life who will place their dependence upon Him and classify Him as their personal Saviour, Lord and Master. The consequence of this change will be the production of GOOD WORKS (WHAT YOU DO) within your heart and life. "For we are his workmanship created in Christ Jesus UNTO GOOD WORKS, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them" Eph. 2:10.

Many a person sheds tears and struggles to secure faith and peace when their real need to get busy DOING as instructed by God in His Word. Are you among this large crowd? What a waste of time to seek the Lord while not going into obedient action. His directions include both negatives and positives. Do you know what to do? Do you know what not to do? Is your Bible opened regularly in your personal daily devotions? Are you attending a Bible teaching church? I have only one more sentence to share with you. IT IS WHAT YOU DO!!!

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