Saved By **Good** Works = love thy neighbor

NOT by *the works of THE LAW* = Church works

On my web site: *radicalchristianpress.org* in the section entitled: **Radical Christianity**, there is an article **Faith and Works: Luther's Distortion of Paul's Teaching** which I wrote about 30 years ago in response to Bob Enyart's book, *The Plot of the Bible*. It runs 50 pages but you can find my essential argument in the first few pages: Paul was disparaging **the works of THE LAW**--ceremonies and animal sacrifices to make atonement for sin--not **good works**. A follow up article: **Not Saved by Faith Alone**, written in response to a friend who read the **Luther** article, runs 9 pages.

When I wrote the first article, I was not fully aware of the degree to which **Not Saved By Works** had become a defining doctrine of Protestant and evangelical churches, especially aimed at the Catholic Church. I found that out the hard way in the years since and have given up arguing about it. But, if anyone wants to argue--**In Writing, Please**--you are welcome to do so.

The best gospel texts for Saved By Good Works = Saved by **Loving Your Neighbor** are Matthew 25.31-46 -- you will join the goats on Judgment Day if you don't *feed the hungry* and *take in the stranger* etc. and the story of the Good Samaritan in Luke chapter 10-- *What shall I **DO** to inherit Eternal Life ?* Answer: *Love Thy Neighbor*. 10.28 *this do and thou shalt live*. Example: the Good Samaritan, who did Good Works for the man he found lying in the road. Jesus uses him as the exemplar despite his doubtful Samaritan faith and by way of contrast with the two men of orthodox faith who go on by without helping the fallen man.

Jesus puts ***Love God*** and ***Love Thy Neighbor*** together as *fulfilling the Law*. ***Love God*** fulfills the left hand tablet of the 10 commandments in respect to God. ***Love Thy Neighbor*** fulfills the right hand tablet in respect to your neighbor. cf. Galatians 5.14: *love thy neighbor fulfills the Law.*

Your ticket to heaven is that you love God. If you don't love God, why would you want to spend eternity with him ? **Or He With You ?** How do you show that you love God ? By loving your neighbor, like the *Good Samaritan*. Aside from Matthew 25, other New Testament texts make the same point, like 1 John 4.20-21 and John 15.12-13. In **Luther's Distortion**, page 25, *Loving God is the Wrong Way* I argue with Calvin's doctrine that it is not possible for us to Love God.

My case against the Catholic Church is not based upon a 500 year old argument about *faith, not works*. It is based upon Joe Biden's visit to Rome where the Pope gave him a pass on his 100 per cent pro abortion policies. And there is a lot more on my web site.

The Catholic Church does not teach **saved by good works** so much as it teaches **saved by Church works**--participating in ceremonies and receiving sacraments, like water Baptism, making *Confessions* and receiving the *Eucharist* to stay right with God. What they have lost sight of, like the Protestant churches, is the call to Bear Witness to the Truth in the power of the Holy Spirit.

One group says I am saved because I believe and I go to mass and *communion*. The other group says I am saved because I believe--you don't have to do anything else. They are all convinced that they are Saved by Right Thinking--correct theological opinions--while they pursue *wealth* and conform to the luxury loving pagan lifestyle. Contra Romans 12.2 *be not conformed to this world*. You are righteous if you say the right thing. It doesn't matter what you do or don't do.

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