

## What About Works?

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**What works do you need to do to get and keep your salvation?**

**None.**

If you sense God calling you to change your life and turn to Him, you need only turn from your present life, cast away your pride, admit God has what you need, and that you want and need what God has for you.

And that is the all of it.

Over the last 2000 years, religion wandered away from the truth. Various factions teach various things that have no biblical support. One of these errors is works, or the idea that you must do “something else” to either gain salvation, keep salvation, or you are obligated to do this or that because of your salvation. These are all lies of man-made religion.

The “something else” could be baptism, giving money, communion, confession, church attendance, teaching, evangelism, missions, communion, trying to live a good life, trying to be a good person, doing good things, this ministry, that ministry, wearing religious costumes, living in religious places, involvement in this or that, and the list seems endless.

Proponents of works will quote verses from the Bible, out of context, in an attempt to prove their point, convince you they are right, make you feel guilt and obligation, all to saddle you with the something they want you to do. These twisted individuals thrive on the feeling of power they derive from controlling you.

### **It Says What it Says, But Doesn't Say it to You**

The classic “works” verse religions love to use is in the New Testament Book of James.

**James 2:18** Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.

The book of James is one in a collection of Hebrew epistles, all written by a Jew, to Jews, for Jews, about Jews, the Jewish law, and Jewish things and Jewish times. It speaks to the Jews under the law. James is the earliest New Testament Jewish Hebrew book written and the author, James, a Jew, had no idea of Paul and his Gospel message, or the mystery given him by Christ. James never acknowledged, ministered to, or wrote to Gentiles. As a Jew, he would have nothing to do with these people the Jews considered “dogs”, heathens, and sinners.

As a Jew, James focused on obedience to the law of Moses. As such, his letter to the Jews has no Pauline language or any doctrine for the Body of Christ: you and me. It also says nothing to the Gentile Christian religions of today that choose to believe that it does.

All the Hebrew epistles (Hebrews through the Book of the Revelation) are for Jews under the law. They have nothing to do with the Gentile Body of Christ - Christ's Church. In fact, the Book of James was largely a repeat of the things Jesus said during His ministry found in the four Jewish Gospels about the Jews.

In the Jewish religion, one would expect works in following the law. That is the crux of Judaism. That is the mistake and the problem with Judaism. For believers in the Body of Christ, God's grace replaced the law, and the indwelling Spirit of God replaced all the miracles of the Old and New Testaments, including the worship buildings, churches, Temples, Cathedrals, Tabernacles, and alters.

In fact, for 2000 years, God has hardened the Jews, blinded them to the truth, and put the Jews away, scattering them like chaff to the four winds. God has rendered the Jews, the law, and their writings obsolete. Think about it - What have the Jews done or said since the time of Christ that we should listen to them? The answer is NOTHING. And yet, the Christian religion is nothing but these obsolete Jewish writings and a version of the Gospel Jesus that never existed. In all of this, Christianity ignores God and His message He sent to us through the Apostle Paul.

Comparing the Hebrew epistles to the Pauline epistles is like comparing apples to anvils - no relation. This is one of the reasons Jews and Gentiles never mixed or co-worshipped, despite what you may have heard to the contrary. Neither the Body of Christ, nor the wayward religion called "Christian" began from the Jewish church we find in Acts 2.

Other "works" verses found in the Jewish epistles, and in the four Jewish Gospels, equally do not apply. Verses used from the Pauline epistles, taken out of context to support a works theology, contradict Paul's message of faith alone and also do not apply.

**Galatians 2:16** 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.

When it comes to the Body of Christ and works, the point is this: believers have the Spirit of God. Whatever the believer does is an organic reaction to, and result of the Spirit's indwelling and leading; a natural out-flowing that animates the believer. What the believer does is not works for the sake of works to prove anything to anyone, but life lived in the Spirit led by God. What we do may look like works, but it is a result of the Spirit of God working through us. A believer does not follow a religious mandate in a mechanical effort, doing things to gain God's favor or win a future salvation. It is an organic manifestation of Christ in us, working through us by His Spirit. We couldn't stop if we tried.

It just happens.

PPGpilot