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Works And Salvation!

While it is true that we cannot earn our salvation through good works, it is likewise true that we cannot be saved without doing good works. Many people think that works have nothing to do with going to Heaven, but that is simply not true. Peter tells us in 1st Peter 1:17 the following: *"And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to everyman's work..."* If we will be *"judged by our works,"* then it is certain that works do have something to do with our salvation. Listen to what Paul says in Ephesians 2:10: *"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."* There are different types of works spoken of in the Bible. The kinds of works that have to do with our salvation today are those *"works of obedience"* that have been given to us by God. It is this kind of work that enabled Abraham to be *"justified in the sight of God."* (James 2:14-26) It is *"works of obedience"* that Jesus had in mind when He said in Matthew 7:21 that *"Not everyone that saith unto me Lord, Lord, shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven."* Works of obedience have everything to do with being saved! (Hebrews 5:9)

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S BIBLE QUESTIONS:

Ahab was the king of Israel that experienced a drought during his reign. It did not rain for three years and six months. (1st Kings 17-18/James 5:17-18)

Jude is the New Testament writer who speaks of the archangel Michael having a dispute with the devil. This dispute had to do with the body of Moses. (Jude 9)

QUESTIONS FOR THIS MONTH:

What is the name of the priest who had two sons who made themselves vile before God? (What were his son's names and what happened to them?)

What is the name of the man who worked for Candace the queen of Ethiopia? (Where had he been and for what purpose did he go there? What happened to him on his way back to Ethiopia?)

"FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS!"

In Matthew 26:26-28 Jesus made the following statement: *"... For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins."* This scripture clearly tells us why Jesus shed His blood. But it does not tell us when this remission takes place. We also read in Revelations 1:5 the following: *"... Unto Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood."* This scripture teaches us the same thing as Matthew 26:28. The question that we need answered is this: "When does the blood of Jesus wash away or give us the remission of our sins?" The answer is found in Acts 2:38 and Acts 22:16. Acts 2:38 says this: *"And Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."* Acts 22:16 makes the following statement: *"And now why tarriest thou? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins,*

calling on the name of the Lord." In the same manner in which both Matthew 26:28 and Revelations 1:5 teach the same thing, namely that the "blood of Jesus washes away or remits our sins", so to Acts 2:38 and Acts 22:16 teach that our sins are "remitted or washed away at the time of baptism." People will sometimes quote Romans 10:13 which says, *"For whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved"*, and teach that this means that all you have to do to be saved is to believe in Jesus as the Son of God. However Acts 22:16 makes it clear that "calling on the name of the Lord involves being baptized to have your sins washed away." This is consistent with so many other scriptures that speak about the subject of baptism. For example Jesus said the following in Mark 16:16: *"... He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."* Paul taught in Galatians 3:26-27 this important lesson: *"For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ."* The "faith" spoken of in verse 26 includes the "baptism" of verse 27. Furthermore we read the following in Romans 6:3-4: *"Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into His death? Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."* And now the picture is clear, since Jesus shed His blood in His death, and since we are baptized into the death of Christ where His blood was shed, it is then that the blood of Jesus washes away or remits our sins. It does not happen "at the time we believe in Jesus", but at the time that we are "baptized into the death of Christ!"

Don't let yourself be deceived by those who teach, "salvation comes by faith only." Salvation comes as a result of a person having an "obedient faith in Jesus Christ", and not just believing that He is the Son of God. Read this article again and carefully consider what is said. Then look up the scriptures used in this article in your Bible and read them for yourself. I think that you will see that this article really does teach the truth about how a person receives the "remission of sins." **HAVE YOU BEEN BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST FOR THE REMISSION OF YOUR SINS?** If not, then *"Why tarriest thou?"*