

An Unscriptural Mind-Set

The mind-set goes something like this, I am saved by grace through faith; I have trusted Jesus as my saviour. However, to assure my entrance into heaven I must maintain a level of good works. This mind-set is totally unscriptural. Salvation happens the second you call upon God – your assurance of entering God's heaven is also predicated upon the fact of you calling upon God. Your salvation is not a matter of you maintaining a level of good works. But it is a matter of trusting Jesus and Jesus alone.

People who believe, or have this type of mind-set would not and do not believe the concept of deism. Deism accepts theism's view that God created the world. But in deism's view, God then turned His back, unconcerned and uninvolved, no longer engaged with the world He made. In other words, God set the cosmos in motion, then He said to the cosmos, I started you, you do the rest. Anyone who knows Scripture knows that this is false. Paul when speaking to the Colossians concerning the exalted Christ, said, "For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether *they be* thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him." This verse states that Christ created all things, to which deism agrees. However, deism overlooks the next verse: "And he is before all things, and by him all things consist" (Colossians 1:16-17).

The last word in verse 17 "consist" means to "hold together in unity." God didn't create the world and then turn His back on it – for it to run itself. Deism is in open contradiction to the teaching of Scripture. If it were not for God making the world run in an orderly fashion, the world would explode.

The same is true with our salvation. We cannot be saved by works, nor do works keep us saved, because all our works are corrupted by sin. You cannot deny that you haven't broken God's law (any form of Scripture) as a Christian, you know that you have.

But, Jesus Christ fulfilled the law and offered His perfect work to God for us. By faith in Christ, we are forgiven of our sins because of His death on the cross, and we receive by imputation His perfect fulfillment of God's Law. Whereas we cannot be saved by our works, we are saved through faith by the work of Jesus Christ.

Therefore, having been saved by faith alone, we are called to do good works, living in accordance with God's law and serving Him with our lives. We are not called upon to do this in order to keep our salvation, but we are called upon to do this because we are saved – your salvation was settled when you trusted Christ. Paul lays this out clearly in Ephesians 2:8-10: "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. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them".

Colossians 3:3 says, “For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.” Romans 5:10 says, “For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.” Did you catch that last phrase? Being reconciled is in the present tense. From the beginning (start) of our salvation, until the consummation (end) of our salvation, all depends upon Christ, not our works.

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