

*The difference
Between*



Salvation & Service

Book one of two

A Bible study from Christian Bible Institute

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THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SALVATION AND SERVICE

The foundation for this Bible study began with the wisdom acquired from a book titled HEBREWS, by Dr. M.R. DeHaan and the teaching of Dr. Max D. Younce, and of course, years of Bible study.

2 Peter 3:13,16 And account that the long-suffering of our Lord is salvation, even as our beloved brother, Paul, also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you;

As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.

Peter, in his letter to the Jewish Christians, reminds them of the wisdom given to Paul the apostle by the Holy Spirit, and written in the Bible for all to read. The same wisdom given to the apostle Peter.

Peter reminds them of Pauls writing to them, (Hebrews) and the wisdom of his other writings (scripture) also.

Peter declares that these writings are hard to be understood. However, he states that these writings are only hard to be understood by those who "are unlearned and unstable".

"which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do the other scriptures,"

The word for wrest is the Greek word *strebloo*, and means to pervert, wrench, and torture.

The unlearned and unstable will wrest, (wrestle) with the scriptures until they have perverted and tortured them. Unfortunately, their distortion of the Word of God will be manifest in their pupils.

Because of the self righteousness of humanity we wrest with the scriptures and mix the gospel with works. We mix salvation and service. When we do, the scripture becomes hard to understand.

Evangelists and preachers quote 1 Corinthians 6:9,10 and Galatians 5:19-21 in an attempt to judge the lost. They say, "those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God." These verses are not for salvation, they are our service to Christ.

ENTERING THE KINGDOM OF GOD

In John chapter three, Nicodemus came to Christ questioning him. He did not come right out and say so, but he was wondering if this was the promised Messiah. Like the rest of Israel, he was waiting for the Messiah to set up the kingdom of Israel, as prophesied.

Jesus knew what was on his mind and came right to the heart of the matter....the kingdom.

John 3:3 Jesus answered, and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

Nicodemus said, "How can a man be born when he is old, can he enter the second time into his mothers womb...?"

Nicodemus was perplexed. Reborn? What does this mean? The Lord's answer to Nicodemus was.....

John 3:5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

Once again, Nicodemus was perplexed. "How can these things be?", he replied.

John 3:10 Jesus answered, and said unto him, Art thou a master (teacher) of Israel, and knowest not these things?

Nicodemus, like most people, was unlearned and unstable in the Scriptures. He was a Pharisee, a Jewish leader and a teacher (ref 3:1), yet he was unlearned.

Then, the Lord told Nicodemus what he should have known already. He gave him the gospel. Christ was talking about salvation first, then service. When the Lord sets up his literal kingdom it will initially be populated by saved people only. They will be indwelt by the Holy Spirit, (ref. Joel 2:26 - 3:1)

In this dispensation, the church age, everyone who trusts Christ as their Savior is indwelt by the Holy Spirit. Born again.

NOTE: Ironically, the New Testament doctrine of the rebirth is a type of the rebirth of Israel when they go into their kingdom. (ref. Isaiah 26:16-18 Ezekiel 37:1-14)

When Israel finally gets their kingdom, they will be reborn as a nation.

ENTERING THE KINGDOM OF GOD

There are two words in these verses we need to view. They are the word see in verse 3 and the word enter in verse 5. The word see comes from the Greek word *eidō*, and it means , to know, be aware, behold. The word enter comes from the Greek word *erchomai*, and it means to come into.

Why would the Lord Jesus Christ use two different words? The answer is very simple. The first word, see, has to do with our salvation. If we are not saved, and indwelt by the Holy Spirit, we cannot behold, or be aware of the kingdom of God. We would not even know it existed. Our focus would be on the world and the kingdom of this world. Unless we are born again we cannot see the kingdom of God.

The second word, enter, has to do with our service. If we are saved, and see the kingdom of God, or aware of the kingdom of God, we have the ability to enter the kingdom of God. Entering the kingdom of God is not a matter of physically entering into.

It is a matter of having the blessings of God available to me. God is not obligated to care for me unless I am serving him.

NOTE: More on this subject in a later portion.

In verses 15 and 16 of the same chapter we are given the salvation message. As a matter of fact John 3:16 is the heart of the Bible.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Whosoever believes that Christ paid for their sin with his death on the cross will have everlasting life. God the Father, gave his Son, Jesus Christ the Lord, over to die on the cross, so man may have everlasting life.

When a person does this they are born again, and indwelt by the Holy Spirit, and have the ability to see, behold, and be aware of the kingdom of God. The kingdom of God is not contained in heaven only, it is everywhere, at all times.

After I am saved by faith in Christ, and have the ability to see the kingdom, I may also enter the kingdom.

However, just because I am saved does not mean I will even see the kingdom of God, let alone enter into it.

Seeing and entering the kingdom of God has to do with my service. If we do not deserve the good things of the kingdom, we will not get them.

ENTERING THE KINGDOM OF GOD

WHAT AND WHERE IS THE KINGDOM

The word kingdom is used 54 times in Daniel and 55 times in Matthew alone. The word is used in reference to a variety of kingdoms. There are worldly kingdoms, kingdoms of men, the kingdom of Israel, kingdom of heaven, and so on.

The kingdom of God, however, is the kingdom that rules over, and within, all other kingdoms. Men may not know it, but God is in control of every kingdom, power and authority on earth. Here are just a few of the many references. (Psalm 103:19 Daniel 2:21,38 4:17,25)

Men may not see or be aware of the kingdom of God, yet it is always there. The christian on the other hand, has the ability to, not only see, but enter into the kingdom of God. It is the Holy Spirit that gives us this ability.

When the devil tempted Christ in the wilderness, he showed Jesus the so called beauty of the worldly kingdoms. Then he offered those kingdoms to the very person who already owns all those kingdoms; Jesus Christ the Lord. Christ was God manifest in the flesh. The kingdom of God and all kingdoms are his.

The words "kingdom of heaven," are found only in Matthew. John the Baptist proclaimed that the "kingdom of heaven is at hand." God rules from heaven. Jesus Christ left heaven and came to earth to offer the kingdom to Israel. Therefore, the heavenly kingdom, the kingdom of, or from, heaven was at hand because the King of Kings was at hand.

The kingdom of heaven is only part of the kingdom of God. The kingdom of God takes in all things. A good definition of the kingdom was given to his students by Dr. Max D. Younce. " THE KINGDOM OF GOD TAKES IN ALL THINGS AND IS MORAL AND SPIRITUAL IN IT'S SPHERE."

Just before the Lord ascended into heaven he spoke to his disciples about, "things pertaining to the kingdom of God." (Acts 1:3)

Paul the apostle expounded, testified, persuaded, taught, and preached about the kingdom of God, and things concerning the Lord Jesus Christ. (Acts 28:23,31)

If the Lord and the apostles taught about it, it must be available. It must be present. It must be at hand.. It is moral and spiritual and is everywhere at all times. Having the ability to see the kingdom of God is salvation. Entering the kingdom of God is rewards for service.

ENTERING THE KINGDOM OF GOD

WHAT AND WHERE IS THE KINGDOM

The kingdom of God is available to those who see it and enter into it by serving Christ by faith. It is not some distant, unavailable place. It is here and now.

Jesus said...

John 12:26 If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall my servant be: If any man serve me, him will my Father honor.

Paul said...

Romans 14:17,18 For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink, but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit.

For he that in these things serveth Christ is acceptable to God, and is approved of men.

David said...

1 Chronicles 29:11,12 Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine. Thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and thou art exalted as head above all.

Both riches and honor come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand is to make great, and to give strength to all.

Concerning Hezekiah it is said...

11 Chronicles 31:20,21 And thus did Hezekiah throughout all Judah, and wrought that which was good and right and truth before the Lord, his God.

And in every work he began in the service of the house of God, and in the law, and in the commandments, to seek his God, he did it with all his heart, and prospered.

When we serve Christ by faith, truth, and righteousness, we will prosper. God the Father will honor that service. He will reward that service. He will give peace and joy. It all comes from his kingdom, the kingdom of God.

For more references.... Deuteronomy 6:1-18 Psalm 22:28 84:11,12 145:10-13

In Matthew 5:1 through 6:34 Jesus Christ expounded on the kingdom of heaven. It is synonymous with the kingdom of God. He ended with ...

Matthew 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you.

Seeking the kingdom of God and his righteousness is our service.

GRACE VS. WORKS

Did Jesus Christ lie when he said

John 3:14,15 And, as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up,

That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

Did he really mean what he said? All I have to do is believe in him for eternal life. Most preachers today don't seem to think so.

Did Paul the apostle lie when he told the Philippian jailor to, "*believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.*"

We claim to believe in grace, but we really do not believe it. We judge a persons salvation by their outward appearance. We should make judgments according to the Word of God and not the words of a man or a denomination.

Recently I heard a television evangelist talking about the rapture of the church. He stated that a lot of people would be surprised when the rapture takes place and many will be left behind.

He went on to quote 1 Corinthians 6:9,10 where it makes a statement about inheriting the kingdom of God.. However it does not say anything about eternal life or entering heaven.

These verses in 1 Corinthians 6:9,10 and Galatians 5:17-21 have nothing to do with our salvation, they have to do with our service.

We will come back to these verses shortly.

Ephesians 2:8,9 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.

Every one quotes these verses when we defend grace vs. works. Why then do we not quote the next verse in our churches to those who are already saved.

Ephesians 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

Salvation is free without any works. Nobody may boast about getting to heaven because they were good. However, we should have good works after we are saved for service.

GRACE VS. WORKS

We need to make a distinction between salvation and service. Salvation is free and it is eternal. Service will cost me a little effort; work.

Titus 3:5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost.

Titus 3:6 which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ, our Savior,

We are not saved by our own good works of righteousness, but by his mercy. Then we are renewed in the Holy Spirit. The same Holy Spirit who gives us access to the kingdom of God.

Should we have good works? Of course. It would be ignorant to assume that God does not want us to maintain good works. Good works are admonished for us, but not as a requirement for salvation.

Titus 3:8 This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they who have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.

When we have good works it is profitable. It is profitable because we may win someone to Christ.

The Holy Spirit, which we receive when we are born again, when we believe in Christ as our Savior, gives us the power to know everything about God. (1 Corinthians 2:1-16)

Luke 12:30-32 For all these things do the nations of the world seek after; and your Father knoweth that ye have need of these things.

But rather seek ye the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added unto you.

Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

In Luke chapter eighteen the little children came to Christ. The disciples rebuked them, but Christ embraced the children and said,...

Luke 18:16,17 But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not; for of such is the kingdom of God.

Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God like a little child shall in no wise enter it.

With simple child like humility we serve the Lord Jesus Christ. The children just accepted him and trusted him.

GRACE VS. WORKS

In Matthew chapter eighteen the disciples asked Jesus who was the greatest in the kingdom. This is a good indication that the kingdom is available here and now. (18:1)

The Lord took a little child and set him in the midst of the disciples ...(vs.2)

Matthew 18:3,4 And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Whosoever, therefore, shall humble himself as this little child, the same is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

As we have already stated, a child is humble. The disciples, on the other hand, wanted recognition and acknowledgement.

Jesus said, "Except ye be converted, and become as little children," The word converted means to turn about, or change the way you think.

What do the children have besides a humble attitude that we need to have as Christians?

1. First of all children are not lost. They are born sinners. Everyone is. Yet they are not held accountable until they reach the age of accountability. They are looked upon as innocent. Notice the words of Christ in verse 8..."whosoever shall offend one of these little ones who believe in me.."

The Lord said they believed in him. These little children believed in Christ.

2. SELF RIGHTEOUS. Children are not self righteous. They are trusting. They trusted Christ. A christian must trust, and rely on Christ. Get rid of our self righteousness, and be converted, change our way of thinking.

3. When we change our way of thinking, it should be childlike. A child is....

- A. Teachable..
- B. Has simple needs..
- C. Depends on parents - Father
- D. Usually has no cares or worries for this life..
- E. Has no desire to covet..

The disciples were expecting the Lord to set up his earthly kingdom to Israel. He was the King. They were looking for a high post in the kingdom. The Lord said if you want to be great in the kingdom, be like this child. Get rid of your self righteousness and trust the Lord.

GRACE VS. WORKS

Serving the Lord in righteousness does two things for me. It gives me the ability to enter into the kingdom of God, which means all the blessings God has to offer are available to me.

It also gives me rewards in heaven when I leave this present life. Present day blessings, and future rewards.

In 1 Corinthians 6:9,10 and Galatians 5:19-21 Paul gives a list of the desires of the flesh, which lust against the Spirit. He then states that, "they who do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God."

These verses have nothing to do my salvation. That is sealed by the Holy Spirit. (Eph. 1:13,14)

They are my present day blessings. These portions of Scripture were written to the church. They were already saved. (1 Corinthians 6:11 Galatians 5:16-18)

The Greek word for inherit is *kleronomeo*, and it means to have an inheritance, to share by allotment, a portion.

The word is also a verb. In a sentence, a verb describes action or being. The word for enter in John 3:5 is also a verb which describes action.

Entering into, or inheriting the kingdom of God, is my present day action for serving him.

In Matthew chapters five and six, the Lord Jesus Christ describes the attitude of those who will inherit the kingdom of heaven (God). This is two-fold. It will be the attitude of those who live in the kingdom of Israel on earth, and those who enter into, or inherit, the kingdom of God, during the present dispensation.

Jesus said Blessed are ...poor in spirit...they that mourn...meek...they who hunger after righteousness...merciful...pure in heart...peacemakers...those who are persecuted for righteousness sake...(Matthew 5:1-10)

Then he teaches us how to live the christian life (Mt. 5:12-6:34), and closes with "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you."

The kingdom of God is.....

Righteousness, peace, and joy... Romans 14:17

Power 1 Corinthians 4:20

Received by those who are saved...Hebrews 12:28

See also Eph 5:5 Colossians 1:13 4:11 1 Thessalonians 2:12 2 Thess. 1:5

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN
SALVATION AND SERVICE
THE FIRST AND SECOND REST

Matthew 11:28-30 Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

In verse 28 the Lord said to come unto him all those who labor and are heavy laden. In other words salvation cannot be earned. No matter how hard we work at it we cannot save ourselves. "Not of works, lest any man should boast."

The Greek word for labor is *kopiao*, and it means to feel fatigue, toil, and to be weary. The word for laden is, *phortizo*, which means to overburden with spiritual anxiety.

Working my way to heaven and salvation is fatigue, toil, and wearisome. It is an overburden of spiritual anxiety, and it just will not work.

Salvation is free by faith in the finished work of Christ on the Cross.

However, in verse 29 the Lord said to 'take his yoke upon you.' A yoke is a sign of work. What did he mean by that?

The answer is simple; it is the difference between salvation and service. Salvation is free without any works. Give up a works righteousness and receive the righteousness of Christ.

Service means to take the yoke of Christ. However, Christ said it was his yoke, and in verse 30 he said his yoke was light.

The Greek word for yoke is *zugos*, which carries the idea of coupling together, and servitude. It also carries the idea of obligation.

When one ox is put to work it is harnessed to the ox-bow. When two oxen are used, they are coupled together by a yoke.

When we serve Christ we are coupled together with him. It is the only way we could serve. His yoke is easy and light.

"Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me:" Serving Christ means we must learn of, and about him. Bible study, Bible study, Bible study.

The first rest of verse 28 is salvation. The second rest in verse 29 is service.

THE FIRST AND SECOND REST

Israel, in the Old Testament, were an example to the church. They made mistakes we should not follow. (ref. 1 Corinthians 10:6 Hebrews 3:7-13)

They failed to enter the land of Canaan, the land of promise, which is a type of the second rest. Canaan was not a type of the first rest, which is salvation. It was a type of the second rest, which is service.

Israel failed to enter the promised land because of unbelief, or lack of faith. They refused to believe the promised land was theirs. They refused to believe God would protect them against those who dwelt in Canaan. They simply refused to trust in their God for divine protection. (Hebrews 3:11,12 with Deuteronomy 1:20-32)

Deuteronomy 1:8 Behold, I have set the land before you; go in and possess the land which the Lord swore unto your Fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give unto them and to their seed after them.

Deuteronomy 1:32 Yet in this thing ye did not believe the Lord your God.

Israel failed to enter the second rest of service because of unbelief. For the christian it would be impossible to enter the second rest, and share the kingdom of God, without faith and trust in God.

When satan sees a child of God trying to serve the Lord he begins the attack. His first attack is on our faith. Our faith is built upon Bible study. Our faith is increased by proving to ourselves that the Word of God is real.

"Learn of me.....and ye shall find rest unto your souls."

Israel was led out of Egypt which is a type of being lost. They were led across the Red Sea, which is a type of the Word of God mixed with the blood of Christ. After we hear the Word of God, and believe it, our sins are covered by the blood of Christ.

After we are saved, we are put in the wilderness for a short time. This is the christian testing ground. From there we may believe God and serve him by faith, and enter the land of promise, our second rest.

Or, we may wander in the wilderness for forty years, as Israel did.

After forty years in the wilderness, the next generation of Israel finally entered the land of Canaan. There were battles to be fought. Land to till. Crops to harvest. But they were there. They crossed the river Jordan, which is a type of the Word of God, and Joshua said,.....

THE FIRST AND SECOND REST

Joshua 1:13 Remember the word which Moses, the servant of the Lord, commanded you, saying, The Lord your God hath given you rest, and hath given you this land.

The previous generation refused to believe the Lord, and serve him by faith. So, they wandered in the wilderness for forty years. God said.....

Hebrews 3:11 So I swore in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest

Hebrews 3:18-19 And to whom swore he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not.

So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.

The book of Hebrews was written primarily to Jewish Christians. It reminded them of their ancestors failure. It reminded them of the example they should not follow. It is an exhortation to serve Christ by faith. The New Testament was written to all Christians, it is our guide.

Hebrews 4:1 Let us, therefore, fear lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should come short of it.

Notice the words "us". It is us who are saved by faith in Christ. "Let us therefore fear lest we come short of the promise."

Read Hebrews 4:2 through 4:8 very carefully.

Hebrews 4:9-11 There remained, therefore, a rest to the people of God.

For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his

Let us labor, therefore, to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.

It should be easy to see the message of Hebrews. A rest remains to the people of God. It is the rest of service. When we give up our self righteousness, and our good works, and trust Christ alone for our salvation, we enter the first rest.

Then we must labor to enter into the second rest. The first rest gives me the ability to see the kingdom of God, the second rest allows me to enter. It is all the blessings God has for his children.

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you."

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SALVATION AND SERVICE

THE CIRCLE OF FAITH

1 John 5:13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God, that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

Notice very carefully those words of John, divinely inspired by the Holy Spirit.

1. These things, the Bible, the Word of God, are written to those who believe in the name of the Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ. These things are written to those who are saved by faith and enjoy the first rest.

2. These things are written so that ye may know ye have eternal life. The Bible was written so we may know we have eternal life. Not that we may think, or hope, or guess, or speculate, but that we may know we have eternal life.

Christ said, "take my yoke upon you and learn of me....."

3. "and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God." The Bible was written to those who believe. That is saving faith in Christ as Savior. That after I believe unto salvation, I will study the Word of God, and increase my faith (believe on the name of the Son of God) for service.

It is impossible to serve without faith. " Let us labor, therefore, to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.."

The more I study the Word of God, the more I believe in him because the Bible proves itself over and over.

Notice how we must progress....

1 Peter 2:2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere (pure) milk of the word, that ye may grow by it.

2 Timothy 3:16,17 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

I am born again by faith. However, I am as newborn. I must learn about the Lord, and increase my faith. I must grow as a christian. For the Word of God is inspired and profitable.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SALVATION AND SERVICE

REPENT OR REPENT

The New Testament was originally written in Greek. In order to understand many of the words, it is necessary to translate from a Greek concordance.

Unfortunately, many of those who did the translation for us, and compiled their work in concordances, and expository dictionaries have done some mistranslating.

One of the words translated from Greek into English is the word *repent*, *repentance*, *repenteth*, and *repented*.

When we see the word *repent* in the New Testament in relation to the gospel, we are led to believe that it means to turn from sin.

The first time the word *repent* and *repentance* are used in the New Testament is in Matthew chapter three.

John the Baptist came on the scene preaching....

Matthew 3:2 And saying, Repent; for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Matthew 3:7,8 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

Bring forth, therefore, fruits meet for repentance.

We agree that the Bible tells us to *repent* when it comes to being saved. However, because of mixing grace and works we have confused the gospel with a false message.

The Greek word for *repent* is *metanoeo*, and it means to change the mind. The Greek word for *repentance* is *metanoia*, and it also means to change the mind. The difference between the two is that the word *metanoeo* is a verb, and *metanoia* is a noun.

In almost every instance in the New Testament *metanoeo* is used in connection with salvation, and *metanoia* is used in connection with my service.

In the original Greek dictionary the two words simply mean to change the mind!!! It does not mean to turn from sin!!! If *repent* meant to turn from sin in connection with salvation, then salvation would become a works righteousness.

Unfortunately, that is the reason the word has been so misrepresented in their translation. We just cannot get over our works when it comes to salvation.

For some reason we know salvation cannot be that easy.

REPENT OR REPENT

We must look at four Greek words translated as repent in the New Testament. The two we have already seen are *metanoeo* and *metanoia*. The other two are listed below and defined.

Metanellomai. Translated as repent twice in the New Testament and translated as repented three times. (2 Corinthians 7:8 Hebrews 7:21 Matthew 27:20,32 27:3)

= to regret. To care afterwards

Ametaneteitos. Translated as repentance one time and as repented one time in the New Testament. (Romans 11:29 2 Corinthians 7:10)

= unregretted, no regret

None of these four words, translated as repent, repentance, and etc., have the meaning of, "to turn from sin." There are other Greek words used in the New Testament that might indicate to turn from sin, however, none of the four mentioned above have the meaning of to turn from sin.

Note: The Greek word *meta-ballo*, which is used in Acts 28:6 is translated as 'change,' and would come closer to mean turn from sin, but it does not.

The Greek word *metanoeo* is translated as repent 18 times, repented 11 times, and repenteth 2 times in the New Testament. The word *metanoia* is translated as repentance 24 times in the New Testament.

Both words are made up of two words in the Greek and are properly divided in the Greek dictionary by a hyphen. The translators of the Greek, English dictionary have no religious axe to grind and have defined the words in their simplicity.

The Strongs Concordance does not translate the words as to turn from sin. However, W.E. Vine Expository Dictionary of The New Testament, states that *metanoeo* and *metanoia* indicate "repentance from sin."

If that were true, and it is not, then salvation would become a works righteousness, based on my doing something, along with faith in Christ.

The following is a translation of the words *metanoeo* and *metanoia* from the Greek English Dictionary, compiled by Prof. Karl Feyerabend, PhD, printed by David McKay Company, Philadelphia.

Meta-noeo ..to change ones mind; to repent (*metanoia*)

REPENT OR REPERT

Meta- among them; besides; afterwards; between; afterwards; accompany with; next to;
According to; in quest or pursuit of;

Noeo- to perceive; think; consider; remark; to devise; contrive; to intend; have a mind;

The word metanoeo is derived from these two words. The word metanoia is derived from metanoeo. In no way does any of these Greek translations mean to turn from sin.

The term turn from sin has been added because that is what many translators want it to mean.

It should only be natural for the born again, child of God, to desire to turn from sin. But, to make that a prerequisite, and part of the salvation message, is the real sin.

In Acts 2:38 and 3:19 the word repent is used in conjunction with being baptized, and being converted. Which of these have to do with turning from sin?

If we really want to, we can make the Bible say almost anything we want it to.

In Acts chapter three, Simon offered to buy the gift of the Holy Spirit. Peter told him to, *"Repent, therefore, of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee."*

Simon's thinking was wrong. It was a sin. He wanted the Holy Spirit for financial gain. It was the "thought of his heart." Peter told him to change the "thought of thine heart."

Change the mind.

When we hear the gospel we should repent, or change our mind. We change the mind about our sin, our relationship to God, who Christ was, what he did for us, our destination if we die in our sins. We change the mind about everything we thought before we heard the salvation message.

After we hear the gospel, and believe in Christ as our Savior, we should serve him. It is the least we can do. Part of the process of serving is trying to avoid sin. Being presentable. Being usable. In order to serve Christ it is often necessary to change the mind; repent.

Change the mind about some of our habits, our lifestyle, our thoughts.

Most of all, we need to study the Word of God. Knowing the difference between salvation and service often requires a change of mind; repentance.

However, they had to repent and believe the gospel.. That is how people get saved. Repent. (change the mind) and believe the gospel.

When we hear the gospel and believe the gospel we have repented. If we did not change our mind about things we would not have believed.

That is just simple logic!!

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THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SALVATION AND SERVICE THE GOD OF PEACE

Romans 5:1,2 Therefore, being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

By whom also we have access by faith into his grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

The Jews who had not changed their mind (repented) and trusted Christ as their Savior, were persecuting those who had. The saved Jew was tormented daily. Therefore, those who were saved, were reluctant to confess Christ publicly. Paul the apostle wrote to the Jewish christian (Romans and Hebrews) to exhort them to serve by faith. The Gentiles also needed to be motivated.

Therefore, the entire New Testament is an exhortation to serve. They were mixing grace and works. Nothing has changed in two thousand years!

Therefore, Paul states we have peace with God when we are saved. Before I trusted Christ as my Savior there was no peace with God. A wall of separation existed between God and myself. It was my sin.

Paul, in Ephesians 2:11-18 makes it clear to the Gentile that we are not the same as Israel, yet we are all in the same condition before we are saved. Notice the following....

Ephesians 2:12....without Christ, being aliens, ...having no hope, and without God in the world.

Ephesians 2:13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

Ephesians 2:14a For he is our peace...

Faith in Christ justifies us. The wall is broken down and we have peace with God through Jesus Christ the Lord. That is salvation!!

Then Paul states in Romans 5:2 we have access by faith into his grace in which we stand. That is service!!

Ephesians 2:17,18 And came and preached peace to you who were far off. And to them who were nigh.

For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

THE GOD OF PEACE

Peace with God is the first rest of salvation. It is by grace without any works. It is being able to see the kingdom of God. It is through the Lord Jesus Christ. It is by his blood. It is free.

"He is our peace."

Romans 5:2 and Ephesians 2:18 on the other hand, have to do with our service.

Romans 5:2 By whom also we have access by faith into his grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Ephesians 2:18 For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

Peace with God is salvation and it gives me the ability to see the kingdom of God. However, it also gives me access to the kingdom. I may now enter the kingdom of God, and enjoy the benefits God has to offer by faith.

Philippians 4:4-7 Rejoice in the Lord always; and again I say, rejoice.

Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand.

Be careful for nothing, but in everything, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God.

And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Jesus Christ.

Peace with God is salvation. Peace of God is service. Serving God gives me the ability to rejoice. I can pray to God with thanksgiving. That means I know he will answer my prayers. I may thank him while I am praying.

The peace of God will keep your hearts and minds.

Peace of God is entering the kingdom. It is the second rest. It is entering Canaan.

2 Thessalonians 3:16 Now the Lord of peace himself give you peace always by all means. The Lord be with you all.

In reality, peace, rest, comfort, and joy, come from knowing the difference between salvation and service.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SALVATION AND SERVICE CONFESSION

Romans chapter ten is a motivation to serve. Primarily to the Israelite, but to all Christians. Paul said his hearts desire to Israel that they might be saved (vs. 1).

Like most religious people, they had a zeal for God, but lacked knowledge (vs. 2). Also like most people, they were self righteous (vs. 3). True righteousness begins with faith in Christ (vs. 4).

Romans 10:9,10 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Does this mean that I cannot be saved until I confess the Lord Jesus with my mouth. If that is true, who do I confess to. Do I need to cry aloud in the presence of a group of people, one person, the preacher, or to Christ himself?

Why did Jesus not tell us that? Why did Paul not tell the Philippian jailor that? Why does the gospel of John declare to believe only?

Once again we must remember that Paul is trying to motivate the Jew who was hung up on the law, and afraid to confess Christ publicly. Many Christians today are afraid to confess Christ publicly. We are afraid we will be rejected and criticized. We are afraid we will lose our friends and social standing. We are afraid someone will be angry with us, so we do not confess Christ.

The word for saved throughout the New Testament comes from the Greek word *soco*, and it means to save, deliver, protect, heal, preserve, and do well. As Christians we are obligated to confess Christ. It is our duty and responsibility. If we do not, God is not obligated to protect us, to deliver us from our enemies, to heal and preserve us.

We agree that Romans 10:9 and 10 are difficult verses to understand unless we see the difference between salvation and service. Both verses 9 and 10 are two part verses. They have to do with my salvation which is by faith, and my service, which is my works, in this case it is confessing Christ.

CONFESSION

Does anybody really believe we must confess Christ as part of the salvation process. We certainly do not. We admit that one must acknowledge Christ before he can believe in him, yet, that is part of repenting.

John 6:40 And this is the will of him that sent me, that everyone who seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Notice three things in this verse that make salvation clear and simple.

1. It is God's will that....
2. Everyone who seeth the Son and believes on him.....
3. Has everlasting life....

Man's will is that we turn from sin, confess at an altar, do this do that; or we ~~do not~~ get saved.

The Greek word for seeth is *theoruo*, and it means to be a spectator of; discern; behold; consider; perceive; see, look upon; observe; and to view.

When we hear the gospel, and see, behold, observe, and look upon Christ and who he is, we are repenting. Changing our mind about him and what he did for us.

When we see the Son of God, and believe on him, we have everlasting life. If it is not that easy, then Jesus lied. **NO HE DID NOT!!!**

If we know that salvation is by faith in Jesus Christ alone, then there must be a logical answer to Romans 10:9,10. There is. It is our service. Paul was motivating the saved Jew to serve. He is trying to motivate every child of God who picks up the Bible and turns to Romans chapter ten to serve.

The Greek word for confess in verses 9 and 10 is *homologeou*, which means to acknowledge; to give thanks; and promise; or covenant.

In verse nine Paul was saying in essence, if you are really saved you will give thanks and acknowledge Christ with your mouth. Then people will know you are saved by faith in Christ.

Verse ten is a two part verse. Part one is believing unto righteousness. That is salvation. No one is righteous. Our righteousness comes when we believe in Christ. (Romans 10:4)

The second part of verse ten is service. Confession, or acknowledging Christ as my Savior publicly, may lead others to Christ. They may see him as he really is. They may repent, change their mind, and believe in him.

CONFESSION

If we confess Christ with our mouth, there is a good chance somebody may be saved. There is also a good chance we may show others that we are indeed saved. There is also no doubt that God will save and protect us as we go through the routine of life.

*Romans 10:11,12 For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.
For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.*

"These verses are written to those who are already saved. "Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed."

Paul is writing to those who already believe. The Jew and Gentile alike. It is our service to confess Christ.

If we do confess Christ, we become the enemy of satan. He will attack us from every direction. When he does, we need divine protection. How do I get divine protection? I call on the Lord in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord!

Please pay close attention to the following verses. Paul explains it very clearly.

*Romans 10:13,14 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.
How, then, shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher.*

Notice carefully these words, "How shall they call on him in whom they have not believed?" One must believe in Christ before they can call on him. (One must be saved by faith in Christ before calling on him. That is salvation!)

"We cannot call on him until after we are saved. Why? It is only logical. Our sins alienate us from God. Enmity. A wall of separation. (Ephesians 2:13,14)

Faith in Christ has reconciled us to God the Father. We may call on him now through his Son Jesus Christ.

Now notice the last half of verse 14....."And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard?" How shall they believe if they have not heard? Has anybody heard the gospel from you and I lately? If they have not, we are not serving, and have no right to call on the Lord for anything.

"And how shall they hear without a preacher." After we are saved, we are all considered a preacher.

CONFESSION

After we are saved by faith in Christ, we should not be ashamed of him. We should be willing to confess him to others so they might be saved. Using Romans chapter ten to lead someone to Christ is a misuse of the gospel.

Romans 10:11,12 For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.

After we are saved, whether Jew or Greek, I may call on the Lord. He is rich unto all that call on him.

In Matthew chapter ten, the Lord Jesus Christ sent his disciples out to preach the kingdom of God to Israel. (Matthew 10:1-7)

He warned them of the opposition they would encounter. They would be persecuted and hated. (Matthew 10:8-16)

He also admonished them to be like him and to rely on him. (Matthew 10:24:30)

Then he gave the important command...

Matthew 10:30-33 But the very hairs of your head are numbered.

Fear not, therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows.

Whosoever, therefore, shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father, who is in heaven.

But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father, who is in heaven.

We are also his disciples after we are saved. Our very hairs are numbered. We are also more important than many sparrows.

However, just like the disciples in Matthew, if we do not confess Christ before men, he will not confess us before the Father in heaven.

Does this mean we will not be saved, or lose our salvation. No!! It means we will lose our right to all God has to offer. We will lose blessings, rewards, answered prayers, and our entrance into the kingdom of God.

The Lord Jesus will not confess us before the Father. We may only come to God the Father through Jesus Christ.

is impossible to lose your salvation.

However, if we deny him, he will deny us. That is for our service. If we do not confess him in the presence of others we are denying him. Therefore, he will deny us before the Father. If we do not confess him, we have no right to call on him in time of need.

We may even withdraw to the point of unbelief, yet he stays faithful. Once we are saved, we are always saved. He is faithful.

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shall be saved. Confess him before others so they might be saved. Call on the name of the Lord (Jesus Christ the Lord) for divine protection and daily needs.

Sounds simple and logical to me.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SALVATION AND SERVICE DEAD FAITH

James 2:17 Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

James 2:17 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

Many years ago a young lady, a Jehovah Witness came to my door. She asked if I went door to door. My reply was, "very little."

She indicated that because she went door to door quite often, her works would get her to heaven, or wherever she was going to go?

After a brief discussion she became angry and quoted the previous verse: "faith without works is dead."

A few days later I was with a Pentecostal and a Baptist acquaintance who thought my lifestyle was not a reflection of my salvation. They quoted the same verse to me in an attempt to judge me. "Faith without works is dead..."

The implication is, if you do not show some kind of a work, you are not saved. Your faith is dead because you have no faith.

That is not what James tells us. If we read the Bible with any logic at all, we may see the uncanny way satan distorts the Bible.

Notice two words in verse seventeen. Being alone! "Even so, faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. It is dead faith, yet it must still be there or it could not be alone. That sounds logical to me

If I do not exist, I could not be alone. I have to be somewhere to be alone. I have to be!!

James 2:26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

Ever see a dead body. It was pretty still wasn't it? It had no life. It didn't move. Yet you saw it. It was there.

So is faith without works. It is still there but lifeless.

James uses Abraham as an example. By works Abraham was justified. However, Abraham was already justified by God when he believed in him. He was counted as righteous. (ref. Genesis 15:6 Romans 4:3 James 2:23)

DEAD FAITH

Romans 4:2,3 For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath something of which to glory, but not before God.

For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.

Abraham believed God and it was counted unto him for righteousness. That is salvation. However, Abraham had good works, but it did not justify him before God. Then how was Abraham justified by his good works?

He was justified before men. His good works revealed his salvation.

His righteousness came by grace through faith. God gave him his righteousness. There is none righteousness, no not one. Therefore, our righteousness comes from God when we believe on his Son, Jesus Christ the Lord.

James 2:23,24 And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness; and he was called the friend of God.

Ye see, then, that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.

How then, was Abraham justified, if not before God? The answer is; before man.

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

It should be easy to see how our works would reveal our faith. That would justify me before men.

There is one word in James chapter two that is often overlooked. It is the word profit in verses 14 and 16. It means increase. If we have no good works we have no increase.

Our faith is not made visible. We have no justification before men.

Titus 3:8 This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they who have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.

Our good works are profitable. They bring an increase. That is, more Christians. When people see something in us that represents Christ, they may want what we have.

DEAD FAITH

It's a dishonor to Jesus Christ and the word of God to mix grace and works. We claim to know the difference, yet in our self righteousness, we continue to do it.

Why do we mix passages with the gospel, that are intended to motivate the christian for service? It is a perversion.

As Christians, we condemn and judge others according to our own self righteousness, yet we are guilty of the greater crime. That is the crime of perverting God's word. When we do, it makes it difficult for people to be saved.

There are three things a christian must do to begin serving the Lord Jesus Christ

Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after the Holy Ghost is come upon you; and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

We must witness for Christ. Tell others. That means to confess him. That gives me the right to call on him in time of need.

2 Timothy 2:15 Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Study the Bible. Pray for wisdom so we may get it right. Studying the Bible increases my faith.

Deuteronomy 1:2 It is eleven days journey from Horeb by the way of Mount Seir unto Kadesh-Barnea.

Begin the journey. Start serving . Israel failed to take the journey because of lack of faith. They wandered in the wilderness for forty years. Most Christians wander in the wilderness their whole lives.