

2:26). Since a faith without works is a dead faith, then it follows that **a faith with works is a living faith.** Abraham's example shows that a living faith is one who takes God at his Word and obeys what He commands. What has God commanded for salvation? He has commanded faith in Christ (John 6:29; 8:24). He has commanded repentance from sin (Acts 17:30). He has commanded confession of faith in Christ (Romans 10:9 10). He has commanded baptism for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38; 10:48). He has commanded faithfulness as of Christians (Rev. 2:10). Confronted with these necessary responses, what will make one's faith complete? What will make one's faith a "living faith" as opposed to a "dead faith"? The answer - **OBE-
DENCE!** The Bible tells us that Jesus is "the author of eternal salvation to **all who OBEY Him**" (Hebrews 5:9).

Yes, salvation is by "grace through faith." Grace is God's part in salvation, but a living active faith is man's part. And the "works" which constitute that living faith are works of obedience to what God has commanded. Without these "works" salvation is impossible. Humble, loving submission to God's will is the expression of genuine faith. Are you expressing that genuine faith?

Elders

James Pigg 270-293-2319

- Mike Ernstberger 270-293-7027

Deacons

Bobby Hall

Jesse Vincent

Preacher

Jonnie Hutchison

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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY BIBLE CLASS 10:00 AM

"Study of Mark"

SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:50 AM

"New Things"

SUNDAY WORSHIP 6:00 PM

"His Name Shall Be Called" Isa. 9:6

Wednesday 7:00 PM

**"Why Bad Things Happen
to Good People"**

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THE GREEN PLAIN PROCLAMER

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ARE WORKS NECESSARY TO SALVATION? *-Jonnie Hutchison*

Most of our readers have probably heard or read the scripture which declares, "By grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast" (Ephesians 2:8-9). Some have concluded from this passage that absolutely no kind of works on the part of a sinner are necessary to his salvation. It is believed by many that one is saved by "faith only" without any further action. In other words, when one comes to believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, it is at that point that one is immediately saved. Is this what the Bible teaches?

The Bible speaks of different kinds of works. It speaks of the works of the law of Moses (the spiritual law given to God's chosen people in the Old Testament). The Law of Moses

was never intended to be universal in its application. It was given only to Israel and was taken out of the way when Jesus died on the cross to be replaced with the New Testament which is God's universal spiritual law today (Deut. 5:3; Colossians 2:14-16; Ephesians 2:14-16). A careful study of the context of Galatians 5:4 indicates that it was this old law that Paul wrote about saying, "Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace." No one this side of the cross can be justified by a law that is no longer in force. Thus, no one may be saved by the works of the Old Testament law. One who attempts to do so falls from God's grace which is extended to mankind through Jesus as revealed in the New Testament. Neither

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NEWS AND NOTES

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: Green Plain Members: Maxine Pool, Jim Fielder (Spring Creek), Hayes Grady, Marie and Roy Wyatt, Dave and Ann Thompson, Joan Lathrop, Wanda Barrett and Don Spiceland.

Family and Friends: Jerry Lovett, Teresa Tacker, Dale Pentecost, Brett Wyatt, Kim Burrows, Nat Evans, Lucetria Hutchison, Ted Clark, Larry and Rose Wyatt, Tonya Morris, Teri Mercer, Patrice Wyatt, Jackie Hernon, Janice Canter, Peyton Mays and Patricia Dowdy.

PANTRY ITEMS August 2025: 3-Peanut Butter; 10-Jelly; 17-Corn; 24-Diced Tomatoes; 31-Pork-n-Beans.

August 2025 ANNIVERSERIES: 13-Gail & Jonnie **BIRTHDAYS:** 4-Teresa Enoch; 21-Jackie Spiceland.

UPCOMING EVENTS: *Fall Gospel Meeting* with Garlan Robinson September 14-18, 2025: *School of Biblical Studies* starts September 22nd with John & Eli Sales serving as our instructors. Be praying and working to make these events successful.

THOSE TO SERVE AUGUST 2025

Announcements: Chad

Preside at Lord's Table AM: Roy & Bobby

Preside at Lord's Table PM: 3-Roy; 10-Bobby; 17-Roy; 24-Bobby; 31-Roy

Opening Prayer AM: 3-James; 10-Jonnie; 17; Jimmy; 24-Mike; 31-James

Closing Prayer AM: 3-Perry; 10-Dave; 17-Jesse; 24-Russell; 31-Chad

Lead Singing: AM-Perry; PM-Chad; Wed-Mike

Count Contribution: Roy and Bobby

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is it possible to be saved through “works” originated by men. If one originated his own plan of salvation which was effective he would have a reason to boast. However, Ephesians 2:8-9 clearly indicates that such human works will not result in one’s salvation. God’s original plan of salvation has already been revealed. There is only one way to salvation and that is God’s way! (Acts 4:12; Gal. 1:6-9; Matt. 15:8-9). The Bible also speaks of the “works of the flesh” (Galatians 5:19-21). It is clear such works will condemn rather than save. Scripture reads, “those who do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.” Yes, these are “works” which will not save. Yet, in Ephesians 2:10 the Bible tells us that God has ordained that we walk in “good works.” The Christians in Philippi were told to “work out your own salvation with fear and trembling” (Phil. 2:12). The inspired James wrote that “faith without works is dead, being alone” (James 2:20, 26). It should be obvious that there is a kind of works which are necessary to salvation.

What are the works which are

associated with salvation. These are the works that the book of James speaks of when it says. “You see then **that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.**” What are these works?

I submit for your consideration that **the works by which one may be justified are works of obedience** to what God commands for salvation. Inspiration uses Abraham as an example of being justified by works and not by faith only. “Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and **by works faith was made perfect?**” (James 2:21-22). The “works” that made Abraham’s faith perfect or complete was his obedience to what God commanded him. And through his faith, coupled with obedience to God’s command, he was justified. Suppose Abraham had refused to “work” (obey)? Would he have been justified by “faith alone”? In the same context the Bible reads, “for as the body without the spirit is dead, so **faith without works is dead also**” (James

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