

## Personal Evangelism #4

John 16:7-11

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### The Message: God's Plan of Salvation, [John 16:7-11](#)

**4. DOCTRINE**—Nothing man could do could help him obtain the absolute perfection God requires for eternal life.

[Ephesians 2:8-9 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God;

<sup>9</sup> not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

[Romans 4:5 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>5</sup> But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness,

[Galatians 2:16 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>16</sup> nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified.

[Titus 3:5 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>5</sup> He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,

[Romans 3:28 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>28</sup> For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law.

If anything is clear in Scripture, it is that man is saved by his faith in Christ's payment for all sin on the cross *plus nothing*. Man's efforts, no matter how good or well intended (before or after salvation), have nothing to do with it. Salvation is by the finished work of Christ and nothing can be added to it.

*Religions* are man-made. Two Latin words make up our English word "religion;" "*re*" and "*ligio*." "*Re*" means to "*go back*," and "*ligio*" means "*to bind*." "Religion" then means "*to bind back*." Religions are man's efforts to bind himself back to God. They are Satan inspired. Satan delights to blind man into thinking he could somehow earn eternal life through his good works.

[2 Corinthians 11:14-15 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>14</sup> No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.

<sup>15</sup> Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds.

People have Satan pictured as having horns, tail, pitchfork, and wearing a red union suit. Satan doesn't want people to know what he is really like.

The plan of salvation is not a religion but is the message of what God has already done to bring us back to Him. Satan gives the lost a religion that, when he hears it, will blind him to salvation. When you witness, always point out that the GOSPEL is NOT a **“religion.”** We are not discussing *man’s philosophy* but God’s Word.

It is often very valuable to point out that you do believe in freedom of worship without persecution. Nevertheless, all the religious leaders of the world are dead: Buddha, Confucius, Mohammed, Mary Baker Eddy, etc. But the Lord Jesus Christ is alive! He is *not* dead! It would behoove those who want to come back from the dead to listen to the Man who did.

That a person cannot save himself by his works... or *help* Christ to save him by his works... or help *keep* himself saved by his works, will be one of the most difficult things for a person to believe. It is also one of the most IMPORTANT things for a person to believe... because if a person does not believe this, he is not saved. God says you are *not* saved by your works but by grace through faith.'

And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace.

**Romans 11:6 (NASB)**

**<sup>6</sup> But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace is no longer grace.**

**GOOD WORKS FOR SALVATION IS SATAN’S COUNTERFEIT OF GOD’S GRACE FOR SALVATION. THIS ISSUE OF “GRACE versus WORKS” WILL ALMOST ALWAYS BE THE MAIN THING YOU WILL NEED TO DEAL WITH. HOW TO OVERCOME THIS SATANIC BARRIER WILL BE DISCUSSED THROUGHOUT THIS BOOK.**

Satan does not want the lost to sin. He wants them to be fine, well-educated, well-liked, moral, religious people. It is a better advertisement for him. He offers them a **“heavenly”** way to go to hell.

God says in **Matthew 7:21-23**,

**Matthew 7:21-23 (NASB)**

**<sup>21</sup> "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven *will enter*.**

**<sup>22</sup> "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?'**

**<sup>23</sup> "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'**

**1 Timothy 2:3-4 (NASB)**<sup>3</sup>This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior,<sup>4</sup>who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

These people tried to work their way to heaven, and God called it SIN. When a person realizes that even the *best* he can possibly do is still *filthy rags* in God's sight ([Isaiah 64:6](#)), he should see the utter folly of believing his good works could help save him.

**Isaiah 64:6 (NASB)**

<sup>6</sup>For all of us have become like one who is unclean, And all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment; And all of us wither like a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

**PRESENTATION**—The way to overcome this false teaching that man needs to do good works for salvation is to present the person with the clear statements in the Word of God on *salvation by faith alone* without works. Sometimes you will need to use only a few verses. Great! But often, because people have been so misled and actually blinded by a counterfeit “**Christian-do-good-religion**,” you will have to go *over* and over salvation-by-faith verses.

**AN IMPORTANT THING TO REMEMBER**—Do not let the person get off onto side issues. *Stay with the gospel*. What is the power of God unto salvation? Yes, the gospel. Satan will constantly work to get you to leave the gospel.

If a person insists that he must work for salvation, show him verses like [Ephesians 2:8-9](#), and *stay with them*. Ask “How would you interpret 'NOT OF WORKS'—that it is of works? God says it is NOT of works.” You will not have a problem so much with a person’s *interpretation* of Scripture as with his *belief* of Scripture. Some people are just unwilling to accept what God says at face value. This is calling God a liar and is so serious that it will result in the person's going to hell.