

Works for salvation prevent salvation, and we are not under the law but under grace.

The following passage shows that salvation, which is the gift of God (see Rom 6:23), is not of works. It is just by grace, (underserved favor) through faith in the gospel of Christ.

8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast. - Eph 2:8-9

The following verse shows that grace and works are mutually exclusive. So, since salvation is by grace, works means no grace and no salvation.

And **if by grace, then is it no more of works**: otherwise grace is no more grace. **But if it be of works, then it is no more grace**: otherwise work is no more work. - Rom 11:6

In fact, if salvation were by works, then God would be in debt to those that worked for it, as declared in the following passage. Verse 5 shows only those that are not working for salvation have their faith count for salvation.

4 Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. 5 But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness. - Rom 4:4-5

In fact, a person must repent of works to be saved as shown in the following verse.

Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; **not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works**, and of faith toward God, - Heb 6:1

A person must cease from their own works to be saved as the next verse shows.

For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his. - Heb 4:10

Christ testified that the works of the world are evil.

The world cannot hate you; **but me it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil.** - John 7:7

When asked for the works of God (plural), Christ that there is only one and that is to believe on Him.

28 Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God? **29** Jesus answered and said unto them, **This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.** - John 6:28-29

The following passages show that no one is saved or justified by works.

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 3:5

6 Even as David also describeth **the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works**, **7** Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. **8** Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin. Rom 4:6-8

For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God. - Rom 4:2

Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, **and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.** - Gal 2:16

2 This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit **by the works of the law**, or by the hearing of faith? **5** He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you, **doeth he it by the works of the law**, or by the hearing of faith? - Gal 3:2,5

For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, **Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.** - Gal 3:10

The following verses shows that we are not under the law given by God in the OT.

For sin shall not have dominion over you: **for ye are not under the law, but under grace.** - Rom 6:14

Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: - Gal 3:13

For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ. - John 1:17

There are many priests, even today, that are offering sacrifices for sins, but that will never take away sins.

And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: - Heb 10:11

They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate. - Titus 1:16

Observing holy days is also works.

9 But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage? **10** Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years. **11** I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labour in vain. - Gal 4:9-11

The only work of salvation is when Christ offered Himself as the sacrifice for sins on the cross. That is why He said, "it is finished". No one can add to the finished work of Christ on the cross.

When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, **It is finished**: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost. - John 19:30

If a person is trying to earn salvation, which is works for salvation, they have fallen from grace.

Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace. - Gal 5:4

Just a little bit of works for salvation leavens the whole lump.

A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump. - Gal 5:9

There is no law that could ever have been given that could bring salvation.

21 Is the law then against the promises of God? **God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law.** **22** But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe. - Gal 3:21-22

See also Rom 3:9-20, Rom 9:30-33, Rom 10:1-4, Gal 2:21, Gal 3:17-18, Titus 3:9-11, 1 Tim 1:3-7, 2 Tim 1:9

All scripture passages and references are from the King James Bible, the word of God in English.