

Do You Love Jesus?

“But now apart from the law a righteousness of God hath been manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ unto all them that believe; for there is no distinction; for all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God; being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: whom God set forth to be a propitiation, through faith, in his blood, to show his righteousness because of the passing over of the sins done aforetime, in the forbearance of God; for the showing, I say, of his righteousness at this present season: that he might himself be just, and the justifier of him that hath faith in Jesus. Where then is the glorying? It is excluded. By what manner of law? of works? Nay: but by a law of faith. We reckon therefore that a man is justified by faith apart from the works of the law. Or is God the God of Jews only? is he not the God of Gentiles also? Yea, of Gentiles also: if so be that God is one, and he shall justify the circumcision by faith, and the uncircumcision through faith. Do we then make the law of none effect through faith? God forbid: nay, we establish the law” (Romans 3:21-30).

Paul’s statements are clear: man is not justified through meritorious works. However, that does not mean that man is justified apart from works. James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, put it this way: “Ye see that by works a man is justified, and not only by faith” (James 2:24).

If asked the question, “Do you love Jesus,” how would you answer? Jesus said, “If ye love me, ye will keep my commandments” (John 14:15). That’s simple enough, don’t you think? So, the question is, “Do you keep the commandments of Jesus?” If the answer is “yes,” then you have, as the apostle Paul said, “works worthy of repentance” (Acts 26:20). If the answer is “no,” then do you love Jesus?

Remember the words of the Lord, when he said, “Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father who is in heaven” (Matthew 7:21). Does that describe you?
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