

THE CLEAR GOSPEL EXPLAINS DIFFICULT PASSAGES

Dr. Ralph “Yankee” Arnold

Introduction: There are many verses in the Bible that seems to say or suggest that a man’s works have a part in his getting salvation or maintaining salvation. If this is true, then salvation cannot be totally by grace alone. The clarity (TRUTH) of the gospel is the lens by which we discern the rest of scripture. We must always seek to understand difficult scriptures by never compromising salvation by grace.

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

COMPARE ALL DP WITH THESE TWO VERSES, IF THEY CONTRADICT IN ANYWAY, THIS MEANS YOUR UNDERSTANDING IS WRONG. Eph 2:8 *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:* Eph 2:9 *Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

1. Verses that seem to say that if you do these certain sins you cannot go to Heaven
 - a. I Cor. 6:8-11 “...shall not inherit the kingdom of God?”
 - b. Gal. 5:19-21, “...they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.”
 - c. Rom. 9:8 and John 3:3-5 states that the lost man or the old man of the flesh is the child of God.
2. Verses that seem to say that you can fall away and lose your salvation
 - a. Heb 6:6 “If they shall **fall** away, to renew them again unto repentance;...”
These verses teach that a believer cannot lose his salvation and then get saved again. **There is no story anywhere in the Bible where a believer lost his salvation, nor is there a story in the Bible where a saved person lost his salvation and then got saved again.**
 - b. Gal. 5:4 “...ye are **fallen** from grace.” You cannot fall from where you have never been. If a believer falls for a perverted gospel (Gal. 1:6-9), he can teach or promote a false message. If you teach that a man can do good works to be saved then you must set aside the only salvation offered by grace. (Gal. 2:21)
3. Verses that seem to say that you **MUST** do good works after you are saved
 - a. Jas 2:17 *Even so faith, **if it hath not works**, is dead, being alone.*
 - b. Eph 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.***
4. Verse that seem to say that you **MUST** endure until the end; which implies that your works do determine your salvation.

Mat 24:13 “But he that **shall endure unto the end**, the same shall be saved.”