

Did Jesus teach a works based Gospel?

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The Final Judgment. THE SHEEP AND THE GOATS.

Matthew 25:31-46 “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. 32 **Before him will be gathered all the nations**, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 33 And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left.

34 Then the King will say to **those on his right**, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. 35 For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36 I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ 37 Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? 38 And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? 39 And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ 40 And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’

41 “Then he will say to **those on his left**, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. 42 For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, 43 I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ 44 Then they also will answer, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?’ 45 Then he will answer them, saying, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’

46 And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.” ESV

Here Jesus makes it clear that if a person does not do good works then that person will be cast into hell. The sheep did good works therefore Jesus said that they are saved and will inherit the Kingdom of God. While the goats did not do good works and Jesus declared that is the reason they are lost and are cast into hellfire along with the devil and his angels. Jesus also says the same thing regarding the law of God.

Matthew 13:40-42 “Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. 41 The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and ALL LAW-BREAKERS, 42 and THROW THEM INTO THE FIERY FURNACE. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ESV.

Matthew 7:21-23 “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22 On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ 23 And then will I declare to them, ‘I NEVER KNEW YOU; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WORKERS OF LAWLESSNESS.’ ESV.

So those people who reject the law of God and disobey it are like the Goats who are going to be cast into the hellfire to be destroyed. This is the clear teaching of Jesus. So did Jesus teach a false gospel of Salvation by the works of the law? If we answer yes then we believe that Jesus taught the heresy of salvation by works. If we say no then the condition of doing works and keeping the law as proof of faith is a part of the gospel of grace. Which is exactly what Paul teaches in Titus 2:11-14.

Inheritance or Works

Titus 2:11-14 “For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, 12 training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, 13 waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.” ESV

Paul claims that he learned the gospel from Jesus himself.

Galatians 1:11-12 “Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel I preached is not of human origin. 12 For I did not receive it or learn it from any human source; instead I received it by a revelation of Jesus Christ.” NET

Neither Jesus nor Paul taught Salvation by works yet both taught that people who are saved by grace will obey the law of God and be zealous of good works as a result of being saved. It was always Satan who told people not to obey the law of God. Now it's Christians saying it. Why is that? Paul gives us the answer in Romans 8. He says Jesus became mankinds Saviour -

Romans 8:4 “...in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.” ESV.

Romans 8:7 “For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot.” ESV.

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