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“He who raised Him up from the dead will also raise us up – if **we do His will and walk in His commandments** and love what He loved, keeping ourselves from all unrighteousness.”

The letter of Barnabas states: “He who keeps these [commandments], will be glorified in the kingdom of God; but he who chooses other things will be destroyed with his works.”

Hermas, who wrote sometime between the years 100 and 140, stated, “Only those who fear the Lord **and keep His commandments** have life with God. But as to those who do not keep His commandments, there is no life in them... All, therefore, who despise Him and do not follow His commands deliver themselves to death, and each will be guilty of his own blood. But I implore you to **obey His commands, and you will have a cure for your former sins.**”

In his first apology, written sometime before 150 A.D., Justin Martyr told the Romans, “We have been taught... that He accepts only those who imitate the virtues that reside in Him – self-restraint, justice, and love of mankind... And so we have received [this teaching] that **if men by their works show themselves worthy of His design**, they are deemed worthy of reigning in company with Him, being delivered from corruption and suffering.”

Clement of Alexandria, writing in about 190, said, “The Word, having unveiled the truth, showed to men the summit of salvation, so that either repenting they might be condemned. This is the proclamation of righteousness: to those who obey, rejoicing; to those who disobey, condemnation.” And again, “Whoever obtains [the truth] **and distinguishes himself in good works** shall gain the prize of everlasting life... Some people correctly and adequately understand how [God provides necessary power], but attaching slight importance to the **works** that lead to salvation, they fail to make the necessary preparation for attaining the objects of their hope.”

Origen, who lived in the early 200s, wrote, “The soul... [will] be rewarded according to what it deserves, being destined to obtain either an inheritance of eternal life and blessedness, **if its actions shall have procured this for it**, or to be delivered up to eternal fire and punishments, if the guilt of its crimes shall have brought it down to this.”

Hippolytus, a Christian overseer who lived at the same time as Origen, wrote, “The Gentiles, by faith in Christ, prepare for themselves eternal

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life **through good works.**” He again wrote, “[Jesus], in administering the righteous judgment of the Father to all, assigns to each what is righteous **according to his works**... Justification will be seen in the awarding to each that which is just; to those who have done well, there will be justly assigned eternal happiness. The lovers of wickedness will be assigned eternal punishment... But the righteous will remember only the **righteous deeds** by which they reached the heavenly kingdom.”

Cyprian wrote, “To prophesy, to cast out demons, and to do great acts upon the earth are certainly a sublime and admirable thing. However, a person does not attain the Kingdom of Heaven even though he is found in all these things **unless he walks in the observance of the right and just way.** The Lord says, *‘Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed other powerful works in your name? And then I will confess to them, I never knew you. Depart from me you workers of evil’* [Matthew 7:22-23]. There is need if righteousness so one may deserve well of God the Judge. **We must obey His precepts and warnings that our merits may receive their reward.**”

Finally, Lactantius, writing in the early 300s, explained to the Romans, “Why, then, did He make [man] frail and mortal? ...[So] He might set before man virtue, that is, endurance of evils and labors, **by which he might be able to gain the reward of immortality.** For since man consists of two parts, body and soul, of which the one is earthly, the other heavenly, two lives have been assigned to man. The first, which is appointed for the body, is transitory. The other, which belongs to the soul, is everlasting. We received the first at our birth. We attain to the latter by striving, that immortality might not be available to man without some difficulties... For this reason He has given us this present life, **that we may either lose the true and eternal life by our sins, or win it by our virtue.**”

In fact, **every** early Christian writer who discussed the subject of salvation presented this same view.

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“I can’t control the weather  
And I must contend with weeds,  
But I’ll reap the Lord’s harvest  
If I faithfully plant the seeds.”

**"WHAT MUST I DO  
TO BE SAVED?"**

**ACTS 16:30**

**LEARN THE GOSPEL**

John 6:45; Romans 10:17

**BELIEVE IN CHRIST**

Hebrews 11:6; John 3:16

**CONFESS CHRIST**

Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10

**REPENT OF SIN**

Acts 3:19; 17:30

**BE BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST**

Mark 16:16; Romans 6:3-6

**REMAIN STEADFAST**

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

**"THE ASSEMBLING OF  
OURSELVES TOGETHER"**

**HEBREWS 10:24-25**

**SUNDAY**

Worship @ 10:00 a.m.

Studies @ 11:45 a.m.

**WEDNESDAY**

Studies & Worship @ 7:00 p.m.

**THURSDAY**

Men's & Ladies' Studies @ 6:20 p.m.

75 Sherrod Boulevard  
Belén, New Mexico

Seekers Welcome.  
Members Expected.

**"IF A MAN IS OVERTAKEN IN  
ANY TRESPASS...  
RESTORE SUCH A ONE"**

**GALATIANS 6:1**

**CONFESS TRESPASSES**

James 5:16; 1<sup>st</sup> John 1:9

**REPENT OF SIN**

Acts 8:22

**PRAY FOR FORGIVENESS**

Acts 8:22

**REMAIN STEADFAST**

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

**"A WORD FITLY SPOKEN IS  
LIKE APPLES OF GOLD IN  
SETTINGS OF SILVER"**

**PROVERBS 25:11**

"There are two ways to be fooled. One is to believe what isn't true. The other is to refuse to accept what is true."

– Søren Kierkegaard

**"WHOLE COUNSEL"**

**ACTS 20:27**

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**WHAT THE EARLY CHRISTIANS BELIEVED ABOUT  
SALVATION – ARE WE SAVED BY FAITH ALONE?**

David W. Bercot

The early Christians universally believed that works or obedience play an essential role in our salvation. This is probably quite a shocking revelation to most evangelicals. But that there's no room for doubt concerning this matter, I have quoted below (in approximate chronological order) from early Christian writers of virtually every generation – from the time of the apostle John to the inauguration of Constantine:

Clement of Rome, who was a companion of the apostle Paul and overseer of the church in Rome, wrote, "It is necessary, therefore, that we be prompt in the practice of good works. For He forewarns us, *'Behold, the Lord comes and His reward is before His face, to render to every man according to His work'* [Revelation 22:2]. ...Let us therefore earnestly strive to be found in the number of those who wait for Him, in order that we may share in His promised reward. But how, beloved ones, shall we do this? By fixing our thoughts on God by faith. By earnestly seeking the things that are pleasing and acceptable to Him. By doing the things that are in harmony with His blameless will. And by following the way of truth, casting away from us all unrighteousness and sin."

Polycarp, the personal companion of the apostle John, taught,  
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