SALVATION BY FAITH AS OBEDIENT DISCIPLESHIP: A BIBLICAL-THEOLOGICAL FOUNDATION

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Introduction

A. The Question at Issue: What is Saving Faith?

B. Reasons for Concern

1. Those claiming to be saved, whose lives do not match the Biblical description

2. The “free grace” advocates who teach that mere belief is all that is required

Survey of the Biblical Requirements for Being Saved

A. The Synoptic Gospels and the Gospel of Jesus

1. Deny every other claim to be master.

2. Follow Him as a disciple.

3. Bring a cross.

*Note*: Being a Christian is being a disciple (Acts 11:26).

B. The Gospel of John and Salvation by Faith

C. The Epistles of Paul

1. Romans 2 and the judgment of God

2. Romans 6 and the difference made at conversion

D. Hebrews and the linking between faith and obedience

1. Chapter 3: disobedience and unbelief

2. Chapter 11: faith and acts of obedience

E. First John and true Christians

1. Positive: they do right.

2. Negative: they don’t sin.

F. James 2:14-26 and the relationship between faith and works

1. Verses 14-20 (the negative): faith that isn’t expressed in obedience is futile.

2. Verses 21-26 (the positive): works of obedience make faith complete.

Conclusion: Implications for our Theology of Salvation

A. Salvation by Faith and not Works

B. The Necessity of Works

1. Faith is the **substance**, works is the **form** it takes when God speaks.

2. Faith expresses itself in obedience; obedience is the exercise of faith.

C. The Great Commission: Make disciples, teaching them to observe His commands.