

Excerptions from "Guidance, Q & A, or Supplement" Book

Salvation with faith plus work? (Page 58): Salvation (p 99) requires faith alone, not work in Ephesians 2:9, "Not of works, lest any man should boast." But in James 2:3, "For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also," faith naturally results in works. So, faith alone requirement for salvation suffices God's grace, which doesn't require our merit such as works. When a criminal accepted Christ just before a physical death, he was saved although he had no time to produce works naturally resulting from his faith (e.g. Luke 23:42-43 "Then he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom." 43 And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.").

Carnal Christian (page 60): Carnal Christians (p 101) will suffer a loss of rewards in the next for their works because their carnal/flesh works(not spiritual works) are burned, like wood, hay, or stubble, while Spiritual Christians will receive rewards for their works like gold, silver, or precious stones (1 Corinthians 3:1-15). There is the difference between spiritual works and carnal/flesh works. Carnal works are their own flesh works not controlled by the Holy Spirit. In spiritual works, we allow the Spirit to work in us -- always initiator is the Holy Spirit, who is working in us. We as respondents to the Holy Spirit do work. Those people are called as Spiritual Christians or Mature Christians. They will receive a crown, depending upon the nature of his spiritual work.

What denomination does Calvary Chapel belong to? (page 66): Calvary Chapel's Model (p 109) is the early church in the Book of Acts. Therefore, Calvary Chapel doesn't belong to any denominational churches (e.g. Methodist, Pentecostal, Baptist, Presbyterian, Reformed, Lutheran, Catholic, etc.) occurred as of Roman Emperor Constantine's declaration of Christianity as the National Religion in 313 AD, in light of Christ's revelation of "...not found your works perfect before God" of the church in Sardis (Revelation 3:2, "protestant churches" in the view of church history) and "to eat things sacrificed into idols" of the church in Thyatira (Revelation 2:20, "Catholic churches" in the view of church history). But Calvary Chapel church neither opposes nor supports any denominational churches because Christ's love is supreme. But in the following time table of church history, the occurrence of Calvary Chapel in 1965 falls into the protestant time, being understood as a protestant church by the general public. But in reality Calvary Chapel belongs to neither any protestant churches nor Catholic churches (i.e., Roman and Greek Catholic Churches), but to Christ Himself. Please note that the time table is a mere reference tool to understand the word of God faithfully, not the substance of Christ.

Success? (Pages 70-72): The Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved (p109) shows success. Success means “to gain an aim.” The issue is whose aim: God’s aim or our earthly aim? To have done what God wants or to have done what we want? We think often that success is to gain “wealth,” “long life or longevity,” and “fame” on the earth. In Hebrews 11, it is discovered that very few of them got them (e.g. Abraham or Noah) but most of them did not get them. How about Jesus’ disciples? Most of them were killed for their faith except John (but banished to Patmos, Revelation 1:9). Paul was also killed for his faith. Jesus Himself was slain on the cross for us. John, Peter, or Paul might have gotten fame but all the other people were far from such earthly success. Further, the seven churches in Revelation 2 and 3 do not exist today at all in Turkey, i.e., no longevity. In view of church history, the church of the Laodiceans was earthly successful, but was scolded, by Christ, of “Because you say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’? and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked?(Revelation 3:17).” However, the church in Philadelphia, which had a little strength, “...you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name (Revelation 3:8b),” was commended for “Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown (Revelation 3:11).”

Therefore the success in the point of God is to gain a divine aim or to have done what God wants, regardless of gaining our earthly aim. Such prosperity as “wealth,” “long life or longevity,” and “fame” as the result, not gaining or pursuing our earthly aim, may be given alone by God, like Abraham; Solomon who asked only wisdom to discern justice but was given “not-asked riches and honor” by God in 1 Kings 3:4-14.

Therefore, here the added saints to the church was just the result from the early church believers who had done what the Spirit of God wanted the 4 basic functions (continuance of the apostles’ doctrine, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayers), not pursuing the increase of members as their earthly aim with the flesh efforts of fund raising, marketing, star shows, coercive sermons, or competition. Here are successful stories in the point of God such as Jeremiah’s ministry (Jeremiah 7:27, “Therefore you shall speak all these words to them, but they will not obey you. You shall also call to them, but they will not answer you” (Jeremiah had done what God wanted although nobody answered him)) or Peter’s sermon (Acts 2:41, “Then those who gladly received his word were baptized (Peter had done what the Spirit of God wanted to teach and baptize); and that day about three thousand souls were added to them”(the increase given solely by God)) or growing word (Acts 12:24, “But the word of God grew and multiplied” (the Spirit of God fed their spirit into the Word of God)) or AGAPE fruit (John 15:5 “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing” (the fruit without Christ can’t be produced) regardless of the “increase” but up to God (1 Corinthians 3:7, “So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase).” Here, the increase with our flesh efforts are not accounted at all for the success of believers in light of 1 Timothy 1:1, “...the Lord Jesus Christ, our hope.”

Therefore, our success is to gain God’s aim or to have done what God wants.