



GOOD NEWS

(#26a) – Taking a short break for Christmas and the New Year

- 1) Including Jesus in *all* we do (including Christmas)
- 2) God's Sovereignty and our responsibility, working together to *guarantee* our salvation!

THE WORK OF GOD ...  A GIFT FROM GOD!

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR
2019-2020

"SALVATION"

Made possible by God.

HIS WORK

VISIBLE TO PEOPLE → **The Work of JESUS**
(Many eyewitnesses; now accurately recorded in the Bible!) *CHRISTMAS FOCUS*

BEHIND THE SCENES → **Sovereignty**
(We can't perceive it; we only know about it because God has told us about it!) *NEW YEAR'S FOCUS*

CHRISTMAS

FOCUS

THE WORK OF JESUS ON EARTH:
IT MUST HAVE AN INFLUENCE ON EVERYTHING WE DO.

So, whether you eat or drink, or **whatever you do**, do everything to the glory of God.
1 Cor. 10:31 (GW)

In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.
Proverbs 3:6 (NASB)

Whatever you do, do it wholeheartedly as though you were working for your real master and not merely for humans.
Col. 3:23 (GW)

Everything you say or do should be done in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.
Col. 3:17 (GW)

THE WORK OF JESUS ON EARTH:
IT MUST HAVE AN INFLUENCE ON EVERYTHING WE DO.

★ **Something to rejoice about** ★
EVERY DAY!!

EVEN SO ...

MOST CHRISTIANS set aside special days for celebrating his birth and resurrection.

THE WORLD is *not neutral*; rather, it downplays, or invents substitutes, for these celebrations.

THE WORLD IS NOT NEUTRAL!

It wants to **suppress** the truth and **replace** it with a lie.

STARTING POINT:
It normally starts small, with innocent-sounding substitutes.

WE DON'T HAVE TO ALWAYS FOCUS ON JESUS...

FINISH POINT:
The goal is to increase emphasis on the substitutes until they completely replace the genuine.

WE DON'T HAVE TO EVER FOCUS ON JESUS...

★ YOU KNOW ★

THE TYPES OF LIES THE WORLD HAS INVENTED.

YOU KNOW!

☞ To **DISTRACT** people from having a focus on Jesus' birth and resurrection

☞ (eventually) To **REPLACE** people's focus on them!

EVEN IF YOU CLAIM THEY'RE "INNOCENT" AND CHOOSE TO PROMOTE THEM, YOU KNOW THEY ARE LIES!

★ IF YOU ARE FOLLOWING JESUS ... ★

YES, YOU!

☞ You do **NOT** have to cooperate with the world!

MORE THAN THAT...

☞ You can **include** JESUS in what you say and do!

If you're **NOT** willing to include Jesus at times such as these, then what makes you think you'll include him in the rest of the year?

NEW YEAR'S

FOCUS

GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY, AT WORK IN SALVATION:
WORKING WITH OUR RESPONSIBILITY.

COOPERATING?

• **THE BIBLE** constantly affirms that sovereignty and responsibility work together.

OPPOSING?

• **THE WORLD** treats them as incompatible opposites; it attempts to suppress what God says about them.

☞ In the end, God's Word will be proven true.

☞ **So you might as well accept it and live by it NOW!**

A GIFT FROM GOD!

GOD HAS GIVEN US A SOLID FOUNDATION FOR A GUARANTEED SALVATION THAT WE CAN KNOW WE HAVE!

Nevertheless, **God's solid foundation** stands firm, sealed with this inscription: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness."

2 Tim. 2:19 (NIV)

GOD'S SOLID FOUNDATION – THE INTERSECTION OF SOVEREIGNTY AND RESPONSIBILITY!

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SOVEREIGNTY

- God's knowledge, like his Word, is living and active... and expresses itself in power.
- This knowledge saves us. Without it, we would be unsaved.

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RESPONSIBILITY

- Those who are saved will repent of their sins. This will be an ongoing attitude.
- Where salvation exists, repentance will exist. We can pretend differently, but we can't fool God.

THIS DESIRE TO REPENT WILL BE AN EXPRESSION OF WHAT'S IN OUR HEART!

I have sought your favor with **all my heart**; ...
Psalm 119:58a (CSB)

Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with **my whole heart**.
Psalm 119:34 (ESV)

I obey your precepts with **all my heart**.
Psalm 119:69b (CSB)

... doing the will of God **from the heart**.
Ephes. 6:6b (NET)

NOT: I'M GOING TO FORCE MYSELF TO DO IT, EVEN THOUGH I DON'T WANT TO DO IT.

RATHER: MY VALUES HAVE CHANGED, SO I DO WANT TO DO IT!

HOW CAN I KNOW THAT GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY INCLUDES MY SALVATION?

DO YOU WANT A SALVATION THAT'S SECURE?

(1) FOCUS ON: YOUR "FOUNDATION"
– knowledge, heart values, etc.

[After warning about false teachers] ... continually be on your guard not to be carried away by the deception of lawless people. Otherwise, you may fall from your secure position.

Instead, continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus, the Messiah. Glory belongs to him both now and on that eternal day! Amen.

2 Peter 3:17b-18 (ISV)

DECEIVED AND UNSAVED

A GROWING FOUNDATION AND SAVED

DO YOU WANT A SALVATION THAT'S SECURE?

(2) FOCUS ON: YOUR "BUILDING"
– actions, conduct, attitude, etc.


... make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. For if you possess these qualities *in increasing measure*, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your *knowledge* of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 1:5b-8 (NIV)

ADD THESE TO YOUR LIFE IN INCREASING MEASURE ...

= KNOWLEDGE MUST BE TRANSFORMED INTO ACTION

Otherwise, your "knowledge" is only temporary – v. 9

IF YOU ARE SAVED  **YOU CAN BE CERTAIN ABOUT IT!**

GOD has *empowered* you to do (v. 3-4) what he *commands* you to do (v. 5-8)!

His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our **knowledge** of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

2 Peter 1:3-4 (NIV)

THIS IS "EMPOWERING KNOWLEDGE"

IT RESULTS IN POWER TO SHARE IN GOD'S MORAL NATURE.*

* "Divine nature" = life/godliness (v. 3), the result of escaping the world's corruption (v. 4). The verses that follow (v. 5+) show us how to do it.

IF YOU ARE SAVED  **YOU CAN BE CERTAIN ABOUT IT!**

If you are saved, you will do what he has empowered/commanded you to do!

Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure.


For if you do these things, you will never fall, and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 1:10-11 (NIV)

DO YOU WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY IS "IN YOUR FAVOR"?

YOU CAN! BY DOING THE THINGS MENTIONED IN V. 5-7!

? SO WHAT DOES THIS MEAN? ?


IF YOU ARE SAVED  **Resolve to do the things that GOD says are a part of salvation!**

WHAT CAN I DO?

FOCUS ON:

- YOUR "FOUNDATION" – facts, heart values, etc.
- YOUR "BUILDING" – actions, conduct, attitude, etc.

*** IN OTHER WORDS... CHOOSE TO NOT BE A FAKE! ***



Credits (1)

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