



# *Intensional* Salvation

Phoenix, AZ

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# Outline

- I. The Question
- II. Scriptural Evidence
- III. Possible Interpretations
- IV. Application
- V. Consequent Questions

# I. Does How You Live Affect Your Salvation?

- Can I live anyway I want and still go to heaven?
- What is the role of obedience and/or works for salvation?
- Can you be certain that you are saved?
- Is it “once saved always saved”, or can you lose your salvation?

## II. Scriptural Evidence

### The Tension between Grace and Works

#### Grace

Ephesians 2:8-9

2 Peter 1:3-4

Philippians 2:13

1 John 1:7,9 / 2:1b

#### Works

James 2:24 / Gal 6:7

2 Peter 1:5-11

Philippians 2:12

1 John 1:6,8,10



## II. Scriptural Evidence

### Grace

*Ephesians 2:8-9*

For **by grace you have been saved through faith**; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; **not as a result of works**, so that no one may boast.

### Works

*James 2:24*

You see that a man is **justified by works and not by faith alone.**



## II. Scriptural Evidence

### Grace

*II Peter 1:3-4*

Seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. For by these **He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises**, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.

### Works

*II Peter 1:5...10-11*

(5) Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge....  
(10-11) Therefore, brethren, **be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you**; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble; **for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.**



## II. Scriptural Evidence

### Grace

*Philippians 2:13*

...for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

### Works

*Philippians 2:12*

So then, my beloved, **just as you have always obeyed**, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling.



## II. Scriptural Evidence

### The Tension in 1 John 1

vs 5. Guiding Principle:      Positive → God is Light and  
   Negative → In Him there is no darkness at all

<i>vs.6 If we say...</i>	We have fellowship with HIM yet walk in darkness	We lie and do not practice the truth
vs. 7 But if we...	Walk in the Light as He is in the Light	1) We have fellowship with one another 2) Blood of Jesus cleanses us from sin
<i>vs. 8 If we say...</i>	We have no sin	We deceive ourselves, truth is not in us
vs. 9 If we ...	Confess our sins	1) He is faithful to forgive our sins 2) Cleanse us from unrighteousness
<i>vs. 10 If we say...</i>	We have not sinned	We make Him a liar, His word is not in us
Vs 2:1b If anyone...	Does sin	1) We have an advocate, Jesus

Conclusion → 2:3      By this we know that we have come to know Him,  
**IF WE KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS**



## II. Scriptural Evidence

Other Scripture regarding Obedience

- 1 Corinthians 9:24-27
- Matthew 7:21
- John 14:21
- 1 John 2:3-4, 3:24
- John 3:36

## II. Scriptural Evidence

### Law of the Harvest

#### Galatians 6:7

- Do not be deceived, God is not mocked ; for **whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.**

#### Romans 2:9-11

- There will be tribulation and distress for every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek, but glory and honor and peace to everyone who does good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For there is no partiality with God.

## II. Scriptural Evidence

### Law of the Harvest

#### 1 Peter 4:17

- Do For it is time for judgment to begin with the household of God ; and if it begins with us first, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?

#### Other verses

- 2 Corinthians 5:10
- 2 John 8

### III. Possible Interpretations of the Tension

1. Saved by Grace for Works – Southern Baptist
2. Two Justifications – Dr. Stanley Toussaint
3. Eternal Reward Theology – Zane Hodges
4. Antinomy Theology – Ken Boa
5. Assurance Theology – Walt Henrichsen
6. One Way Streets – Walt Henrichsen
7. Active vs. Passive Faith – John MacArthur

# 1. Saved by Grace for Works

## Salvation by Grace...

*Ephesians 2:8-9*

For **by grace you have been saved through faith**; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God ; **not as a result of works**, so that no one may boast.

## ... For Works

*Ephesians 2:10*

For we are His workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus for good works**, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

## 2. Two Justifications – Abraham

### By Grace...

*Genesis 15:6*

Then he believed in the LORD ; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness.

*Romans 4:2,5*

(2) For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God.

(5) But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is reckoned as righteousness.

### By Works

*Genesis 22:15-17a*

Then the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, "By Myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, **because you have done this thing** and have not withheld your son, your only son, indeed I will greatly bless you, and I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens and as the sand which is on the seashore.

*James 2:21-23*

Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar ?

**You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, faith was perfected;** and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "AND ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS RECKONED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS," and he was called the friend of God.

### 3. Eternal Rewards / Consequences

II Corinthians 5:10

- For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

Revelations 22:12

- Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done.

### 3. Eternal Rewards / Consequences

Matthew 6: 19-21

- Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

I Corinthians 6:18

- Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body.



### 3. Eternal Rewards / Consequences

#### Grace

1 Corinthians 3:10-11

According to the **grace of God** which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it. For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

#### Works

1 Corinthians 3:12-15

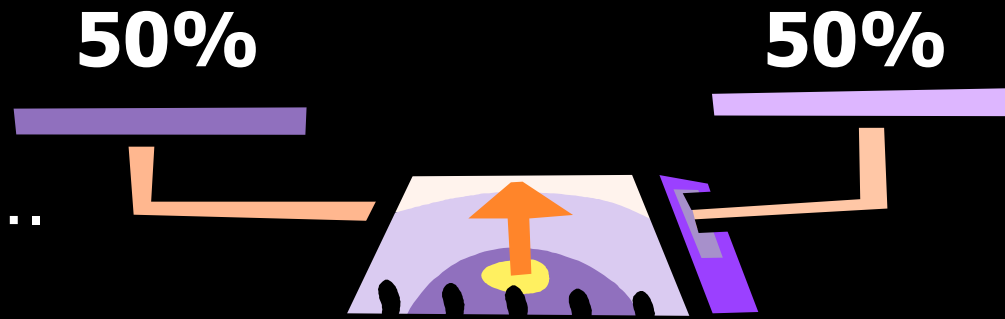
Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and **the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work**. If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss ; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

## 4. Recognizing Antimonies

- Antimony = “Anti” (against) + “Nomos” (law)
- Unlike paradoxes, you cannot reconcile these
- Paul uses the word “mysterion” in Ephesians
- Many examples:
  - Trinity
  - Hypostatic Union
  - Bible written by man and God
  - Old Self vs. New Self
  - Time
  - Space
- This antinomy is God’s Sovereignty vs. Man’s Free Will

## 4. Antimonies are about Tension, not Balance

Not about  
*balancing* them....



...But holding them  
in **TENSION**

## 4. Verses regarding Antimony

- 1 Corinthians 15:10
- 1 Timothy 4:16
- 1 Corinthians 15:2
- John 3:36

# No one can be certain he is saved

- Reasons:

- No empirical evidence that God exists
- Cannot prove Bible was written by God
- If Certain, then faith is not necessary
- The pernicious presence of sin in our lives
- By definition, the future is not certain

- God wants us to walk by faith



## 5. Assurance Theology

- Difference between certainty and having no doubt
- MIT solved the game of checkers
- You cannot scientifically prove the existence of God
- You cannot scientifically prove the Bible is the Word of God
- Certainty does not equal walking by faith
- You don't need faith if you are certain
- "You cannot be certain of anything in the future"
- The elect cannot lose their salvation (perseverance of the saints), but no one can know he is elect

## 6. One Way Streets

- There are many Biblical truths that are true when stated one way, but the converse does not work
- Examples:
  - Being faithful to your wife does not make you married, but unless you are faithful, you cannot be married
  - Witnessing for God is not necessary for salvation, but if you are ashamed of God you cannot be saved (Mark 8:38)
  - Being a forgiving person does not make you a Christian, but unless you forgive, you are not forgiven (Matt 6:14)
  - Obedience cannot save you, but you cannot be saved if you are disobedient

## 7. Active vs. Passive Faith: Obedience not Necessary

- **St. Augustine** (400 A.D.): “What is the nature of faith? Faith is nothing else than to think with assent.” To Augustine faith was simple mental assent to understood propositions, nothing more.
- **John Calvin** (1540 A.D.): “For as regards justification, faith is something merely passive, bringing nothing of ours to the recovering of God’s favor but receiving from Christ what we lack. Faith is like a vessel, for unless we come empty and the mouth of our soul opens to seek Christ’s grace, we are not capable of receiving Christ.”
- **Martin Luther** (1530’s): “Sola Fidei! Sola Scriptura!”



## 7. Active vs. Passive Faith: Obedience Necessary

- John Stott: “We may believe in the deity and the salvation of Christ, and acknowledge ourselves to be sinners in need of His salvation; but this does not make us Christians. We have to make a personal response to Jesus Christ, committing ourselves unreservedly to Him as our Savior and **Lord**.”
- J. I. Packer: “What is in question is the nature of faith? Christian faith means hearing, noting, and **doing** what God says.”
- John MacArthur: “True faith is never seen as passive – it is **always obedient**. In fact, Scripture often equates faith with obedience.”

## 7. Active vs. Passive Faith: Obedience Necessary

- ❖ Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, *being* by itself. – *James 2:17*
- ❖ But someone may *well* say, “You have faith and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works. – *James 2:18*
- ❖ You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder. – *James 2:19*
- ❖ You will know them by their fruits. – *Matt 7:16a*

# God warns against presumption

- 2nd Peter 1:10
  - Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble;
- 2 Co 13:5
  - Test yourselves *to see* if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you—unless indeed you fail the test?



# Observations from scriptures

- Faith without works is dead
- Biblical faith is always active faith.
- Intellectual assent is not enough (James 2:19)
- Salvation **IS** to Lordship (evidence)
- Works is 'assurance' of your salvation



## IV. Application

- Why is this an issue?
- What are the stakes?
- How do we get spiritual formation?
- Does this effect our eternal destiny?
- Is this part of spiritual warfare?

# Obedience and Assurance

- Best biblical basis for assurance is a heart for obedience (Jonathan Edwards)
  - Even Jesus needed to learn obedience and submission of will – Hebrews 5:8
- Manifestation of the Holy Spirit gives us assurance
  1. Charismatic Manifestation (healing)
  2. The Role of the Holy Spirit is to change Lives
  3. Holy Spirit helps us to obey
  4. Holy Spirit closes the gap



# If obedience is key, what is the Role of works in salvation

1. Is it a basis?
2. Is it a condition?
  - Romans 10:9
3. Is it evidence?



# REVIEW OF SALVATION - OVERVIEW

Basis for Salvation	Condition for Salvation	Evidence of Salvation
<i>Sacrificial Death of Christ</i>	Belief or Faith	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Obedience</li><li>▪ Good Works</li><li>▪ Go to Church</li><li>▪ Bible Intake</li><li>▪ Sharing Faith</li><li>▪ Giving Money</li><li>▪ Prayer Life</li><li>▪ Fasting</li><li>▪ Sex Abstinence</li><li>▪ Selflessness</li></ul>





# Basis for salvation: grace by election, through imputation

- Grace is by product of election.
- Imputation is the mechanism of election (Abraham)
- The Death of Christ is an internal transaction to allow election.



# THREE IMPUTATIONS

Three Imputations	Verses	Why?
1. God imputed the sin of Adam unto the human race	(Rom 5:12)	Required for grace
2. God imputed the sins of the elect onto Jesus Christ	(II Cor 5:21)	Consistent with justice
3. God imputed the death <i>and</i> the life of the risen Jesus onto the elect	(Rom 5:17, & 19)	Hidden with Christ in God



# Basis for salvation:

## Righteousness through Christ's sacrifice

- “God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood – to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished. For the demonstration, I say, of His Righteousness at the present time, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus” (Romans 3:25-26 NASB)

- **God did this for Himself, Christ died for God**
- **So that we do not make heaven “dirty”**
- **The sin problem was resolved independent from us, it allows God to save us now**



# Condition for salvation: Faith

- It is the only condition required to be saved
- Faith must be active not just intellectual
- Not merits

Witnessing for God

Forgiving others

Obedience and works

**Does**

**NOT**

**save**

**you,**

**but you**

**CANNOT**

**be saved**

You are ashamed of Jesus

Unless you forgive others

Without obedience and works in your life



# Sanctification

## JUSTIFICATION

- God's work of imputation is entirely a legal issue, not a moral one.

Romans  
6-8

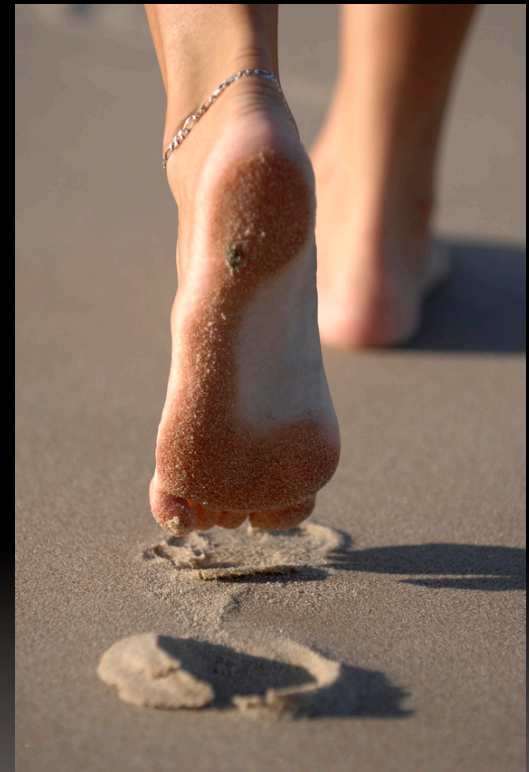
## SANCTIFICATION

- Sanctification is evidence we've been saved
- Assurance
- God's goal in Sanctification is a New Life  
(Rom 8:39)



# The Christian Walk

- We need to flee from sin and put on the new self (Eph 4:24, Col 3:5-10)
- Lordship is a by-product of salvation
- Spiritual formation is not legalism
- Obedience is an expected, necessary by-product of Christ in you



# The antidote to sin is Slavery to God

- Romans 6, 7, 8
- Salvation involves a change of masters
- Redemption of Israel
- “Slave” vs. “doulos” vs. “bond-servant”
- We prove who our master is by observing who we are presenting ourselves to serve (Rom 6:16)



## IV. Application

### Reasons for not obeying:

1. Don't believe it is important
2. Lazy
3. Don't want to, don't agree
4. No self control



# Is God conditional or unconditional

## Yes

- So Many Examples in the Bible (Deutronmy 28)

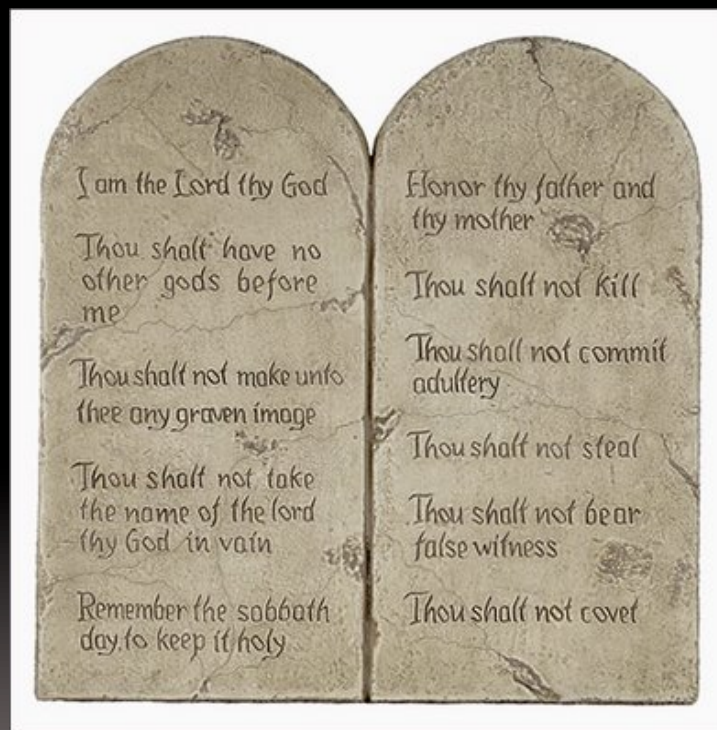
## No

- Reformed Doctrine of Unconditional Grace



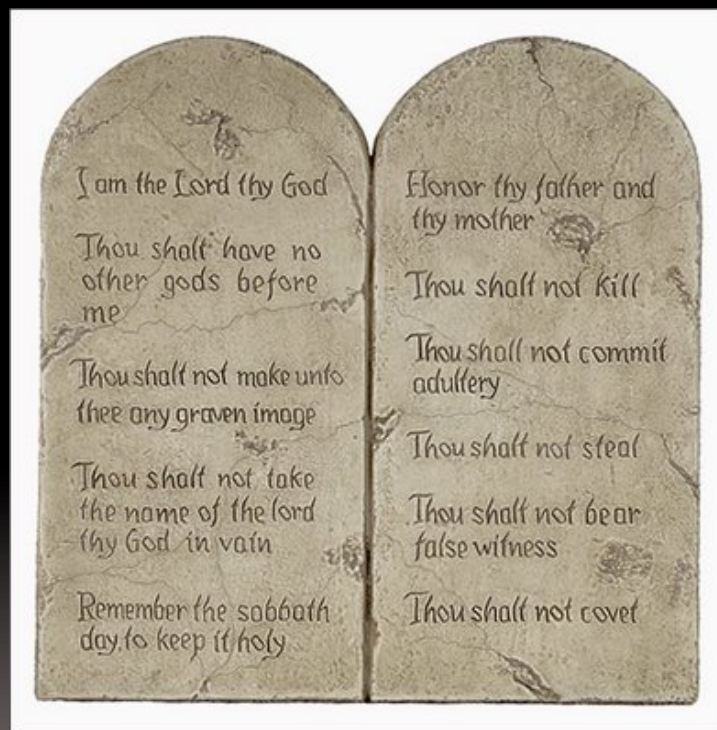
## IV. Application

### 10 Suggestions?



## IV. Application

# 10 Commandments



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Baldwin



"I do. But not literally."

# Observations from scriptures

- Faith without works is dead
- Biblical faith is always active faith.
- Intellectual assent is not enough (James 2:19)
- Salvation **IS** to Lordship (evidence)
- Works is 'assurance' of your salvation



## IV. Application

How do we fall into these errors today?

- “I don’t have to be obedient to be a follower of Jesus Christ”
- “God loves me just the way I am, I don’t have to perform or do works to be saved”
- “I will only obey when I agree with it”

## IV. Application

- ❖ Faith that is manipulative  $\neq$  Faith
- ❖ Obedience on their own terms



I accept the relationship, but on my terms





## IV. Application

### Manipulation of obedience: Presumption

- “For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.” - *Jude 1:4*

## IV. Application

How do we turn grace of God into licentiousness?

- By ignoring God's commands under the guise of grace.
- "I know I shouldn't do it, but I also know He will forgive me."
- "I am sure God is not the kind of God who would want me to suffer or not be happy."

## IV. Application

For example:

God's forgiveness covers my willful disobedience to:

- Marry an unbeliever
- Be promiscuous
- Commit adultery
- Get divorced

## IV. Application

The battle cry is:  
“God wants me to be happy.”

He wants you to be holy,  
which will make you happiest  
(in eternity).

# Rewards

- Eternity won't be the same
- Is Death confirmation or transformation?



- Reward theology is a by-product of doctrine of election by imputation
- Christian works determine:
  - (1) Rewards in heaven, (2) Assurance
- Eternal consequences for temporal behavior, whether heaven- or hell-bound



# The Handicap System

- God's standards for each of us are not entirely the same
- Handicap System,  $N/D = Q$ 
  - N: sacrifices *for* the Lord
  - D: gifts *from* the Lord (abilities, circumstances, etc.)
- No basis for comparison with others



# Fear

- The cross should not eliminate the fear of God
- Paul says that the problem with men is that they do not fear God and the absence of fear is the manifestation of being lost
- Absence of fear is the absence of grace
- “To the degree I love (obey) God perfectly, I have nothing to fear (1 John 4:18); but to the degree I don’t love perfectly, I have everything to fear
- You can fear and love God at the same time



# Hope

- Hope is always gain – always future gain
- Eternal hope is different than believing in an After-life.
- Hope defines the object of your faith, what you perceive to be gain, your risks in the direction of what you consider to be gain
- Thus you take risk in the direction of your hope
- Faith must be active and must come with a price (James 2)
- Existence of hope always requires risks
- Risks vs. fulfillment of God's promises





# Purpose of Life

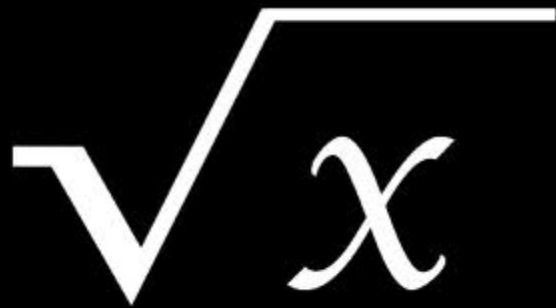
- This life is but seed time for the next
- God is both partial and impartial
- Bema seat of Judgment
- “It’s not about you” vs. Narcissism

## Prepare for eternity

- Train our wills for obedience
- Work on our character
- Emulate what Christ did on earth (Serve)
- Live sacrificially



# E-squared



- Last command of Jesus was to carry on what He started (Acts 1:8)
- Two components of this command (Matt 28:19-20)
  - Evangelism
  - Edification
- The Ministry belongs to the layman.
- Eph 4:11-12
- Eph 4:16



## V. Consequent Questions

- Is death confirmation or transformation?
- How important is spiritual formation in this life?
- Why does God not want me to be certain?
- What is the purpose of life after conversion?

## How do we obtain spiritual formation?

"He who has  
My commandments and keeps them  
is the one who loves Me;  
and he who loves Me  
will be loved by My Father, and  
I will love him and  
will disclose Myself to him."  
- *John 14:21*

**“No one in heaven will say  
that they are glad  
they did not do  
what God commanded.”**

# Two Theological Viewpoints

## God Centered

I exist for God

He chose (elected) me for His own good pleasure

Christ died for God so that He could elect whomever

I'm not certain that I'm saved, but I have faith that I <sup>am</sup>

My faith must be active, faith without works is dead

The Holy Spirit lives in me so I can be sanctified

Progress in Sanctification is my assurance of <sup>salvation</sup>

Works and obedience flow from my hope, it will <sup>matter</sup>

Death will be confirmation of what I am now

Christ's death won't ameliorate consequences of sin

I fear God because there is eternal accountability

My purpose in life is to prepare for eternity

## Self Centered

God exists for me

I chose God when I accepted Him into my life

Christ died for me because He loves me

I am certain that I am saved; I will go to heaven

As long as I believe in Him, I'm not obligated to obey

The Holy Spirit lives in me so I can experience God

Manifestations of the H. S. makes me certain I'm <sup>saved</sup>

Works and obedience flow from my love for Christ

Death will be when I'm transformed into perfection

Christ's death eliminates all consequences of sin

I don't fear God because perfect love casts out fear

My purpose in life is to know God & enjoy Him forever

