

“How Does A Human Being Get Into Heaven?”

By Tony Melton

The above title appeared in “The Sunday Ardmoreite,” October 29, 1995. The writer answered the question by saying: “Here is how you **do not** get into heaven: You **cannot** get into heaven by ‘working at it’ nor by ‘doing good works’ nor by ‘being good.’”

This article probably left many people with the idea that there is absolutely nothing they can do in order to be saved. It is true that we cannot devise works that will save us, nor will we be saved by doing the works of the law of Moses. However, God has devised works THAT WE MUST DO in order to be saved!

By reading Matthew 25:31-46, you will find that on the day of judgment many will be punished eternally for failing to do good works. Jesus spoke of those who will be lost for not giving food, drink, and clothing to their needy brethren, or helping strangers or visiting those who are sick or in prison. Jesus will tell them: “Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels . . . And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.” In Matthew 25, we find two classes of people; those who help their needy brethren and those who do not. According to Jesus, the ones who do good works will go into eternal life, but those who do not will go into eternal punishment. Why do preachers say that works have nothing to do with salvation? Surely they believe we must obey God’s commandments.

When Jesus comes again, He will judge us and reward us according to our works. The Bible says, “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad” (2 Co. 5:10).

When we die our works will follow us (Rev.14:13), and Jesus will judge us according to our works (Rev.20:12, 13). We must not let Satan deceive us into believing that works have nothing to do with salvation. The apostle Paul says: “This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable to men (Titus 3:8).