

Practical Christianity 101 Pt 3

Romans 12:9–21

Romans 12:9–21 (NKJV)

⁹ *Let love be* without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. ¹⁰ *Be* kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; ¹¹ not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; ¹² rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; ¹³ distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion.

¹⁷ Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. ¹⁸ If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. ¹⁹ Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but *rather* give place to wrath; for it is written, “*Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,*” says the Lord. ²⁰ Therefore

*“If your enemy is hungry, feed him;
If he is thirsty, give him a drink;
For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head.”*

²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Introduction

The relationship between faith and works has been foundational to the right and biblical view of Christianity.

The false religions of the world are based on works to save you or get you to the next world in a positive way.

Roman Catholicism is a works plus faith religion. Both must be present to guarantee a limited time in purgatory and exception from Hell.

But true biblical Christianity is unique in every way. It is a Faith Alone in Christ Alone by Grace Alone Christianity.

It is the Christianity of the Apostles and the gospel that was rescued by the Reformation. Great emphasis was placed on the one word, “sola” that means “alone”.

Biblical Christianity is based on faith alone in Christ alone granted by God’s undeserved favor alone. It is a gift graciously given to undeserving sinners bound in their sin and held captive by the Devil.

It is apart from the sacraments, and any works of the church or ritual obedience. It is solely a

sovereign work of grace granted at the pleasure of God.

The Bible is extremely clear regarding salvation being apart from works and by faith alone.

Ephesians 2:8–9 (NKJV)

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast.

Romans 3:20 (NKJV)

²⁰ Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin.

Romans 3:28 (NKJV)

²⁸ Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law.

Romans 4:2–5 (NKJV)

² For if Abraham was justified by works, he has *something* to boast about, but not before God. ³ For what does the Scripture say? “*Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for*

righteousness.”⁴ Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt.

⁵ But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness,

Romans 11:6 (NKJV)

⁶ And if by grace, then *it is* no longer of works; otherwise grace is no longer grace. But if *it is* of works, it is no longer grace; otherwise work is no longer work.

Titus 3:3–5 (NKJV)

³ For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another. ⁴ But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, ⁵ not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,

2 Timothy 1:9 (NKJV)

⁹ who has saved us and called *us* with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,

This is so basic to Christianity and the Gospel that it seems unnecessary to repeat it. Salvation is not given based on works but is given by the grace of God ALONE.

But some in an attempt to keep grace pure and untainted by works have separated works from salvation altogether. Some have called this “hyper grace” and even some who taught and embraced the “Non-Lordship salvation” believed that works did not necessarily need to be present for salvation. It is taught by the “hypergrace” group that repentance is unnecessary in the believers life because he is already forgiven of all of his sin. It is taught in some circles of the “non-lordship” group, that you can be saved and there may or many not be any change in your behavior whatsoever.

But there need not and should not be any confusion over any of this. I do not find that the Bible is unclear about this at all.

Just in the few verses I read to you earlier, it is crystal clear that salvation is apart from and not based on works or obedience to the law of God. But it is equally just as clear that salvation is not genuine without works.

Works do not get you saved but they prove that you are saved.

Ephesians 2:8–10 (NKJV)

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Ephesians 2:10 (YLT)

¹⁰for of Him we are workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to good works, which God did before prepare, that in them we may walk.

Ephesians 2:10 (NA28)

10 αὐτοῦ γάρ ἐσμεν ποίημα, κτισθέντες

αὐτοῦ —-of Him, first for Priority

γάρ—For —-explaining the previous statement
—-not of works lest we boast.

ἔσμεν— Present A.I. eimi—

εἶμί^a: to possess certain characteristics, whether
inherent or transitory— ‘to be

Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). In [Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains](#) (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition., Vol. 1, p. 148). United Bible Societies.

ποίημα, —-workmanship

ποίημα *poiēma*; gen. *poiēmatos*, neut. noun from *ποιέω* (4160), to make. Something made, a work, workpiece, workmanship (Rom. 1:20). Figuratively in Eph. 2:10; Sept.: Ps. 143:5; Eccl. 3:11; Is. 29:16. It denotes the result of work, what is produced as contrasted to *ποιέσις* which is the act of making, the doing itself and not that which is made

Zodhiates, S. (2000). In [The complete word study dictionary: New Testament](#) (electronic ed.). AMG Publishers.

κτισθέντες—-created—Aorist Passive Part.

κτίζω; κτίσις^a, εως *f*: to make or create something which has not existed before— ‘to create, creation’

(in the NT, used exclusively of God’s activity in creation).

Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). In [Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains](#) (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition., Vol. 1, p. 513). United Bible Societies.

This creation is not talking about your original creation in your mothers womb. This is talking about you second Creation in salvation. Your second birth. The text says, “created in Christ Jesus” This is the

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

ἐπὶ ἔργοις ἀγαθοῖς —-unto good works —for the purpose of good works

οἷς προητοίμασεν ὁ θεός,

προετοιμάζω *proetoimázō*; fut. *proetoimásō*, from *pró* (4253), before, and *hetoimázō* (2090), to make ready. To prepare beforehand. In the NT equivalent to predestinate, to appoint before, trans. with *eis* (1519), into (Rom. 9:23, “unto glory”). So also with a

dat. (Eph. 2:10). The only two times this verb is used in the NT, it is used of God's foreordaining for good, referring to glory and to good works.

Zodhiates, S. (2000). In [The complete word study dictionary: New Testament](#) (electronic ed.). AMG Publishers.

ἵνα ἐν αὐτοῖς περιπατήσωμεν.

ἵνα— for the purpose to

περιπατήσωμεν—walk

peripatéō; contracted *peripatō*, fut. *peripatésō*, from *perí* (4012), about, and *patéō* (3961), to walk. To tread or walk about, generally to walk

(II) Figuratively, to live or pass one's life, always with an adjunct of manner or circumstances

Zodhiates, S. (2000). In [The complete word study dictionary: New Testament](#) (electronic ed.). AMG Publishers.

So the salvation that God has granted us is not just to get us out of hell, and not just to forgive us of our sin, and not just to grant us perfect righteousness. It

is not just positional and legal. It is not just the removal of guilt and the declaration of righteous. It is practical, everyday, every moment a transformation of heart and mind that fleshes out in a transformed life of walking and obedience and righteous works.

This is why James 2 is so essential to understand. Listen to where James goes with Genuine faith granted by God's grace

James 2:14–16 (NKJV)

¹⁴ What *does it* profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? **Can faith save him?** ¹⁵ If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, “Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,” but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what *does it* profit?

Can faith save him

μη δύναται ἡ πίστις σῶσαι αὐτόν;—-Negatgive answer expected

Grk “the faith,” referr;ing to the kind of faith just described: faith without works. The article here is

anaphoric, referring to the previous mention of the noun πίστις (*pistis*) in the verse

Biblical Studies Press. (2005). [The NET Bible First Edition; Bible. English. NET Bible.; The NET Bible.](#) Biblical Studies Press.

Notice where James goes.

¹⁵ If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, “Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,” but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what *does it* profit?

¹⁷ Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

James does not go to religion to prove faith. He does not go to liturgy or rituals or sacrifices. He does not mention the temple or the duties in the temple.

He does not mention the church, working at the church, teaching the saints, serving as a deacon or elder, teaching a class, taking the Lord’s supper or baptism, nothing about church membership or preaching a sermon.

He brings our faith down to the most common basic needs..... food and clothing. It does not get much more basic than this.

In other words, true faith that has saved will work in the most basic ways for the glory of God. Even to the meeting of basic needs to survive.

All of the responsibilities given to us in verse 9-11 are reflections of a redeemed heart. A person who understands the grace of God having been forgiven of their sins.

These are our duties as a person who has been saved but they are also the fruit of real faith. Works that are worthy of the grace that has saved us.

Romans 12:9–11 (NKJV)

⁹ *Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.*

¹⁰ *Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; ¹¹ not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;*

Now we move to verse 12. What a marvelous verse. SO needed in our Christian walk Paul speaks of the Hope we have
 the Patience we need
 the Prayer we practice.

Romans 12:12 (NKJV)

¹² rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer;

verse 9 gives us our personal responsibility to love all in an general way. Abhorring the evil but gluing to the good.

verse 10 tells us how we should love the family of God, the church, each other preferring others more important than our self. We see in these verses, 9, 10, all three words for love are used.

Agape, Phileo, and Storge. Sacrificial willful love of the unloved and unlovable, then, friendship, brotherly love and then, family love. We are to love on another like our own family.

verse 11 Paul tells us how we should not be lazy or slothful in our zeal to serve the Lord and fervent in spirit or on fire for God, boiling hot for God in serving obedience to our Master.

verse 11 is closely related to ver 12, because when someone is full of zeal of Christ and fully committed to the point that they are boiling over for God, that means that they are going to do their very best for Christ, honoring him in obedience in their personal life, their family life, church life and their work and

social life. And all of this sounds good to us who are believers. But it does not always settle so well with the World around us.

The world hates the light and the darkness has no fellowship with the light. And not everyone is happy about you telling them that they are in sin and headed for Hell if they do not repent.

Those who live godly will be persecuted. This world is growing in its evil, boldly displaying its hatred and animosity toward God and his church.

So as a result you will need 3 things.

HOPE

PATIENCE

PRAYER.

This is exactly what the Christians need of living in a sin cursed and rapidly deteriorating culture.

Let take them one at a time.

I. HOPE

We are to v.12 Be rejoicing in hope.

This is beautiful and so needed today.

It seems that there is bad news and worse news everyday.

It's like the moonshiners on HeeHaw

Four moonshiners, typically [Grandpa Jones](#), [Gordie Tapp](#), [Roy Clark](#), and [Archie Campbell](#), sing about their troubles

Gloom, despair, and agony on me

Deep, dark depression, excessive misery

If it weren't for bad luck, I'd have no luck at all

Gloom, despair, and agony on me

Today in our world, much of the news is bad. There is constant talk of a looming economic collapse.

Prices continue to rise. Cost of living skyrockets
Cancer is increasing more daily, they even have turbo cancers

World War 3 is in the News every week.

Iran threatens Nuclear holocaust.

Crime is increasing in the cities.

Christian denominations are being infiltrated by leftist agendas and immoral compromise at every level.

Persecution the Christian church worldwide is at an all time high.

With all of this, it is easy to lose sight of the big picture. It is easy to get down and discouraged. It is easy to lose hope.

But the Bible tells us to be rejoicing in Hope.

This is not like the hope of the world.

Their hope is more like a wish, or a wish against reality.

The world has their hope in the wrong things.

They are hoping in Science to conquer death and extend physical life into foreseeable future.

I just read of the potential of the first, in theory, head transplant. Body goes bad. Just get a new body from the guy who died in a motorcycle accident because he was not wearing a helmet.

Or get rid of all the cars, planes, and cows and you will save the planet from global warming. And if we spend a few billion dollars more we can make sure the Obama's don't lose their mansion on the coast from sea levels rising.

The hope of their world is a myth based in faulty reasoning based on lies of a godless worldview. Their hope is indeed hopeless. No wonder there is so much anxiety and depression.

But, I am here today to tell you that Our hope is not based on this world, but the world to come.

Our hope is not based on Science but rather the Savior.

Our hope is not theory or a wish of what we would like to see happen.

Our hope is based in a real God who became a real man and died a real death and buried in real tomb and resurrected from real tomb and literally ascended into the real heaven to sit at the right hand of a real throne and is set a real day on the real calendar to come back in real clouds with real Angels and saints and real trumpets blasting. Real graves will open and the real bodies will be resurrected forever to be with Christ.

This is not make-believe
This is not fantasy
This is not luck or chance.
This is fact and it is our future.
This REAL hope

The Bible centers our Hope in the coming of Christ. Our hope is not in this world or what this world can offer. IT is only in the coming of the Resseducted Christ.

Let me show you what I mean.

1 Peter 1:3–9 (NKJV)

³ Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, ⁵ who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

⁶ In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ that the genuineness of your faith, *being* much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, ⁸ whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see *Him*, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, ⁹ receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of *your* souls.

Romans 8:18–25 (NKJV)

¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us. ¹⁹ For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰ For the creation was

subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected *it* in hope; ²¹ because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. ²³ Not only *that*, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. ²⁴ For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for *it* with perseverance.

Colossians 1:26–27 (NKJV)

²⁶ the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. ²⁷ To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Titus 2:11–13 (NKJV)

¹¹ For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, ¹² teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age,

¹³ looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,

1 John 3:2–3 (NKJV)

² Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. ³ And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

The World does not know this hope. They don't understand this hope. The lost die with no hope, the lost who are left behind had no assurance and hope of ever seeing them again.

Paul does not characterize the world of lost people as having some hope or a little hope, rather, he says they have NO HOPE

1 Thessalonians 4:13–5:11 (NKJV)

¹³ But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. ¹⁴ For if we

believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

¹⁵ For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive *and* remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore comfort one another with these words.

The Day of the Lord

5 But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. ² For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. ³ For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. ⁴ But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. ⁵ You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. ⁶ Therefore let us not sleep, as others

do, but let us watch and be sober. ⁷ For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. ⁸ But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and *as* a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹ For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰ who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.

¹¹ Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.

So what does Paul tell us we should be doing with the hope we have.

12 rejoicing in hope. Pres. A Part.

Be continually rejoicing.

χαίρω^a: to enjoy a state of happiness and well-being—‘to rejoice, to be glad.’ χαίρω ἐν τοῖς παθήμασιν ὑπὲρ ὑμῶν ‘I rejoice as I suffer for you’ Col 1:24; ὡς λυπούμενοι ἀεὶ δὲ χαίροντες ‘although saddened, we are always rejoicing’ 2 Cor 6:10.

Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). In [Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains](#) (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition., Vol. 1, p. 302). United Bible Societies.

This past week on June 6th was the 80 anniversary of the D Day Invasion of the Beaches of Normandy France. When this happened in 1944, most of us in this room today were not even born. At that time, some very evil and demonic forces had taken up residence and led Adolf Hitler and his German forces to attempt to take over and conquer the world. Unspeakable evil and atrocities were committed against the men and women and children who got in his way.

It was a dark, dark time in our history. Hope was fading away for many and for some it was completely gone.

But hope was not entirely gone for all. There were some who believed we could destroy those evil forces and drive Hitler and his forces right into Hell. literally.

General Eisenhower's determination that operation OVERLORD (the invasion of France) would bring a quick end to the war is obvious in this message to the troops of the Allied Expeditionary Forces on June 6, 1944, the morning of the invasion.

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE



Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen of the Allied Expeditionary Force!

You are about to embark upon the Great Crusade, toward which we have striven these many months. The eyes of the world are upon you. The hopes and prayers of liberty-loving people everywhere march with you. In company with our brave Allies and brothers-in-arms on other Fronts, you will bring about the destruction of the German war machine, the elimination of Nazi tyranny over the oppressed peoples of Europe, and security for ourselves in a free world.

Your task will not be an easy one. Your enemy is well trained, well equipped and battle-hardened. He will fight savagely.

But this is the year 1944 ! Much has happened since the Nazi triumphs of 1940-41. The United Nations have inflicted upon the Germans great defeats, in open battle, man-to-man. Our air offensive has seriously reduced their strength in the air and their capacity to wage war on the ground. Our Home Fronts have given us an overwhelming superiority in weapons and munitions of war, and placed at our disposal great reserves of trained fighting men. The tide has turned ! The free men of the world are marching together to Victory !

I have full confidence in your courage, devotion to duty and skill in battle. We will accept nothing less than full Victory !

Good Luck ! And let us all beseech the blessing of Almighty God upon this great and noble undertaking.



Dwight D. Eisenhower

This effort, brought together the land, air, and sea forces of the allied armies in what became known as the largest amphibious invasion in military history. The operation, given the codename OVERLORD, delivered five naval assault divisions to the beaches of Normandy, France. The beaches were given the code names UTAH, OMAHA, GOLD, JUNO, and SWORD. The invasion force included 7,000 ships and landing craft manned by over 195,000 naval personnel from eight allied countries. Almost 133,000 troops from the United States, the British Commonwealth, and their allies, landed on D-Day. Casualties from these countries during the landing numbered 10,300.

By June 30, over 850,000 men, 148,000 vehicles, and 570,000 tons of supplies had landed on the Normandy shores. Fighting by the brave soldiers, sailors, and airmen of the allied forces western front, and Russian forces on the eastern front, led to the defeat of German Nazi forces.

<https://www.eisenhowerlibrary.gov/research/online-documents/world-war-ii-d-day-invasion-normandy>

What you may not know, is that General Eisenhower wrote another speech incase of failure

As best as I can decipher the hand written note in the historical archives.

It states,

“Our landings in the Cherbourg have failed to gain a successful foothold. My decision to attack at this time was based upon the best information available.

The troops, the Air and Navy did all that bravery and devotion to duty could do.

If any blame is attached to the attempt, it is mine alone.

<https://www.eisenhowerlibrary.gov/sites/default/files/research/online-documents/d-day/in-case-of-failure-message.pdf>

This is evident that the hope that General Eisenhower had to push back and defeat the evil forces of Nazi Germany was not a sure thing in his head or in the minds and hearts of many of those men. The Evil was great, the soldiers and leaders of Germany were determined to rule the world and even with all the military might the Allied forces could muster, there was not a sure Hope or an Anchor for the Soul.

But Brothers and Sisters,

Today I declare to you that we do have a sure hope, we do have an Anchor for the Soul. No matter how

evil this world becomes, no matter what new Hitlers arise, no matter how many demons rage against the kingdom of God, Our God will not fail, He cannot fail.

There is no such thing as an appendix to the book of Revelation titled "In Case I Fail"

Oh know, It is sure. It is steadfast and your future is secure in a Savior who has already defeated the Devil, and conquer the last enemy, death. He is Resurrected and is coming back.

Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in Heaven!!!