

Articles and Sermons :: Why is salvation by faith? Thomas Watson**Why is salvation by faith? Thomas Watson - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2007/9/6 17:17**

Why is salvation by faith?

(Thomas Watson, "Body of Divinity")

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast."

Ephesians 2:8-9

"Jesus said to the woman—Your faith has saved you; go in peace." Luke 7:50

Why is salvation by faith?

To exclude all glorying in the creature. Faith is a humble grace. If salvation were by repentance or works, a man would say, "It is my righteousness which has saved me!" But if it is of faith, where is boasting? Faith fetches all from Christ—and gives all the glory to Christ!

God's believing people are a humble people.

"Be clothed with humility." God's people shrink into nothing in their own thoughts. David cries out, "I am a worm, and not a man!" Though a saint, though a king—yet a worm! When Moses' face shined, he covered it with a veil. When God's people shine most in grace—they are covered with the veil of humility. Abraham the father of the faithful, confesses, "I am nothing but dust and ashes." "God resists the proud." Surely, God will not take to be with Himself in glory, such as whom He resists.

God's believing people are a willing people.

Though they cannot serve God perfectly—they serve Him willingly. They do not grudge God a little time spent in His worship. They do not murmur at sufferings. They will go through a sea and a wilderness—if God calls. "Your people shall be a willing people." This spontaneity and willingness is from the attractive power of God's Spirit. The Spirit does not force—but sweetly draws the will. This willingness makes all our services acceptable. God sometimes accepts of willingness without the work—but never the work without willingness.

God's believing people are a consecrated people.

They have "holiness to the Lord" written upon them. "You are a holy people to the Lord your God." God's people are separated from the world—and sanctified by the Spirit. The priests under the law were not only to wash in the laver—but were arrayed with glorious apparel. This was typical, to show that God's people

are not only washed from gross sins—[^]but adorned with holiness of life. They bear not only God's name [^]—but His image! Holiness is God's stamp; if He does not see this stamp upon us, He will not own us for His believing people.