

Two Great Scriptural Paradoxes

Acts 2:40; 1 Tim.4:16; Eph. 2:8,9

Introduction:

- A. How would you like a pop test that you cannot fail – only four true - false questions?
 - 1. The Bible teaches one can save himself. T F
 - 2. The Bible teaches one cannot save himself. T F
 - 3. The Bible teaches one is save by works. T F
 - 4. The Bible teaches one is not saved by works. T F
- B. Truth is never contradictory but it is often paradoxical.
 - 1. Contradictions actually oppose one another and cannot be reconciled
 - 2. Paradoxes may “seem contradictory...but may in actually be true in fact.”–Webster's New World Dictionary.
- C. Two great Bible paradoxes have bothers religious thinkers.

Discussion:

I. One Cannot Save Himself, Yet He Can Save Himself. (Texts).

- A. It is true that one cannot save himself in that:
 - 1. He cannot plan it. (1 Cor. 1:21-29; 2:1-5; Eph. 1:3-12; 3:11).
 - 2. He cannot buy it. (1 Pet. 1:13-21; 1 Cor. 6:20; Rom. 5:6-11).
 - 3. He cannot earn it. (Rom. 4:1-7; Eph 2:8,9; Rom. 3:23; 6:23).
- B. It is also true that one can save himself in that:
 - 1. He obeys the truth. (1 Pet. 1:22; Rom. 6:16).
 - 2. He judges himself worthy of eternal life. (Acts 13:46).
 - 3. He keeps himself in the love of God. (Jude 20, 21).

II. One Is Not Saved By Works, Yet One is Save By Works. (Eph. 2:8,9; Jas. 2:24)

- A. It is true that one is not saved by works in that:
 - 1. The works of the law cannot save him. (Gal. 2:16; 3:2-10; Rom. 3:19-4:13).
 - 2. The works of merit cannot save us. (Rom. 4:4; Eph. 2:9; Tit. 3:5).
- B. It is also true that one is saved by works in that:
 - 1. He is justify by working faith. (James 2:24; Gal 5:6).
 - 2. He is judged by his works or deeds. (Rev. 20:12,13; 2 Cor. 5:10).
 - 3. He is created for good works. (Eph. 2:10; Phil 2:12)

Conclusion:

- A. We are saved by works, but not our own.
- B. Baptism? A work? It saves. 1 Pet. 3:21