

Quit Struggling to Save Yourself

by Anthony Scherffius

A drowning boy was struggling in the water. On the shore stood his mother in an agony of fright and grief. By her side stood a strong man, seemingly indifferent to the boy's fate. Again and again the suffering mother appealed to him to save her boy. But he made no move. By and by the desperate struggling began to abate. He was losing strength. Presently the boy rose to the surface, weak and helpless. At once the strong man leaped into the stream and brought the boy in safely to the shore. "Why did you not save my boy sooner?" cried the now grateful mother. "Madam, I could not save your boy as long as he struggled. He would have dragged us both to certain death. But when he grew weak and ceased to struggle, then it was easy to save him." To struggle to save ourselves is simply to hinder Christ from saving us. (James H. McConkey)

The Scriptures are clear when it comes to one attempting to save themselves. Only when we "cease from our own works" and depend helplessly on Him do we realize how perfectly able He is to save without any aid from us. Paul would say to the church at Rome, "But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace is no longer grace." (Romans 11:6). He would say something very similar to the church at Ephesus as well: "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." (Ephesians 2:8-9).

We cannot expect to earn our way into heaven. However, we do need to obey Christ's commandments if we love Him (John 14:15). So which one is it then? Are we saved by works, or by faith? Well, we need to define our terms, because on one hand Paul says we are not saved by works, but on the other hand James says without works our faith is dead: "What use is it, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but he has no works? Can that faith save him?...Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself." (James 2:14-17). This seems like a contradiction at face value, however, they are actually talking about two different works. James is discussing the works or action of obedience, where Paul is talking about the works of the Law of Moses: "nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified." (Galatians 2:16).

Rather than trying to save ourselves by something that condemns, we have to let go and obey the commandments of Christ so He can save us through our faith (a trust that moves one to obedience) in Him. Let us stop struggling in the depths of our sins, but instead trust Him to save us by our faithful obedience in His Word.



Remember in Prayer

John Dyer will have a knee replacement tomorrow, April 30th.
Archie Underwood saw a radiation oncologist on 4/27. The doctors are developing a plan for treatment.
Sharon McMillan will have an angiogram on May 4th.
Louis Thomas is home from the hospital and resting.
Larry Calvin is dealing with upper respiratory symptoms. He had an appointment on 4/28 with his cardiologist and primary care physician. Further testing is being scheduled.
Vonda Thomas has been ill.
Doug Guinn has also been ill.
Robin Lowry will have sinus surgery soon. She is dealing with terrible headaches.
Judy Clamon has been sick.
Charlotte Whitt has bronchitis. Yvonne Nelon's sister, **Sherry**, had emergency surgery to repair an intestinal rupture.

Remember Also:

Archie & Nancy Underwood,
 Joy Tull, Judy Mitchell,
 Alan Haack, Chris Calvin,
 Rex Parker, Luanne Patterson,
 Roger Elam, Scott Koeler

IMPORTANT DATES

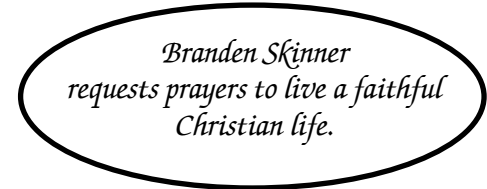
May 10- NH Worship Svc./2:00
 May 17- Elder/Deacon Mtg./4:00
 May 17- Senior Dinner
 May 28- NH Birthday Party/2:00
 May 31- 5th Sunday Q&A
 May 31- Youth Devotional

May/June Food Committee:

*Anlene Odom *Pat Clamon
 Sandy Haack Angie Trull
 Raelee Trull Mallory Norman
 Janet Drummond



2026 Seniors
Cooper Dyer Lillian Garcia
 Senior Dinner: Sunday, May 17th
Please bring your favorite mexican food dish.



Pick up your May calendar in the information room.



Please see the bulletin board in the information room for Lillian's graduation announcement.

****SAVE THE DATE****
FAMILY BIBLE SCHOOL
JUNE 22-26