

PERFORMANCE-BASED “CHRISTIANITY”

- They are told being a Christian involves something like, “asking Jesus into their lives”
- They make every ‘effort’ to live a life to please the Lord

They “work hard” and “try hard” to:

- Present tense:
Work of Man
- Please God
 - Make good choices
 - War against demonic forces
 - Refuse impulses of the flesh
 - Striving for satisfaction (**2Tm.3:7**, “always learning”)

Example: Martha - STRIVING | Mary - SURRENDERING (**Lk.10:38-42**)

They believe this effort is pleasing to the Lord

God “will make up the difference” for their weaknesses by His ‘grace’

GRACE-BASED CHRISTIANITY

- God provides total forgiveness of sins (**Hb.10:17**) according to the good pleasure of His will (**Ep.1:5**)
- “We love Him because He first loved us” (**1Jn.4:19**)

We surrender ourselves to His leadership (give Him all the glory)

- Past tense:
Work of God
- We rest in His holiness* (**Rm.8:29; 1Th.5:23; Hb.10:10**)
 - The Spirit transforms us (**2Co.3:18**)
 - We cease striving to please the Lord (**Hb.4:10**)
 - Imputed righteousness is the experience of all believers (**Hb.10:10**)

*HOLINESS: (lit. ‘to separate’; practically, ‘to be conformed to the character of God’)

It is the offering only acceptable payment of Jesus' life, through the power of the resurrection that we receive:

- Forgiveness of sins
- A new life in Him

The natural outflow of regeneration is obedience (**1Jn.3:3-10; Ep.2:10**)

“⁴Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt. ⁵But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness” (**Rm.4:4-5**).

“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.” (**Rm.11:6**)