

Eisenhower Church of Christ

God's Part and Man's Part

Does man contribute to his salvation? Does man have any part to play, any role to fulfill, in the salvation process? Does salvation arise from human activity? Some say, "No, What saith the Scripture?"

It is imperative to properly define our terms. Webster defines "contribute" as follows: (a) to give a part to a common fund or store (b) to play a significant part in bringing about an end or result. Among the definitions Webster gives for the word "part" is: (a) "one's share or allotted task (as in an action)...A function or course of action performed."

The above definitions deserve elaboration as they relate to the questions asked in the first paragraph of this article. Does man contribute to his salvation? Yes. Not in the sense that he gives a part to a common fund or store but in the sense that he plays a significant part in bringing about an end or result. In other words, it is true that there is nothing that I can contribute to the death, burial and resurrection of Christ to make it any more efficacious or powerful than it already is. I cannot improve upon the redemptive work of Christ. (I cannot ever remember hearing a preacher in the Lord's church say that we can, by what we do, add anything to the Divine side of God's work. Yet, the charge is being made that this is a widespread mistake among us). God's part is His and I cannot add anything to His part.

However, this is not to say that I have no part to play. I have an allotted task to perform. My performance of this task is not meritorious (Ephesians 2:8-9). I can never do enough to deserve salvation (Luke 17:10). Yet, without doing the will of the Father in heaven, I can never enter into the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 7:21). I do not nullify God's part (Grace) by doing my part (Obedient Faith).

Hebrews 5:9 should forevermore settle the controversy as to whether God and man both have a part to play in the salvation process. The record says that Jesus became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey Him. The word "author" is the translation of the Greek word "aitios". *Vine's Expository Dictionary of Greek New Testament Words* notes the meaning of the word which is found only once in the New Testament. He says that Christ "*on the grounds of his finished work on earth has become the personal mediating cause of eternal salvation.*" Thus, the word "author" denotes God's indispensable role in saving humanity. Jesus is the divine cause of eternal salvation. Does man also have a part in this process? The latter portion of verse 9 answers with a resounding yes! Jesus is the cause of eternal salvation only to men and women who obey Him. If obedience is never offered in response to the grace He proffered, then salvation will never be realized.

Numerous examples of this principle are found in Scriptures. God made gracious provisions for Noah and his family to be saved from the flood. Did Noah contribute one whit to his salvation from the flood? "*Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he*" (Genesis 6:22). By faith he prepared an ark to the saving of his house (Hebrews 11:7). Noah could not add anything to God's power to protect him and God would not build the ark for Noah. Thus, God had His part and Noah had his. Noah did not earn anything. God deserves all the glory. However, if Noah had not built the ark and followed God's instructions, all of the grace that God had promised Noah would have been pointless.

It was the power of God that caused the walls of Jericho to come tumbling down. Yet, man had a part to play in bringing about the transaction. Men walking around the walls did not contribute any power that God needed to make the walls fall down. But God had made it clear that He would not do His part until man had done his (Hebrews 11:30). The same is true of our salvation. Though He has already done His part in the sending of His Son to die on the cross, He will not do His part in cleansing us from our sins until we have done our part in humbly submitting to His will. Salvation would never have arisen for Saul if he had not arisen and been baptized (Acts 22:16).

God has done His part, and without it, no amount of man's part can justify. God's part has been to demonstrate His grace. Our part is to access that grace by a faith that submits and obeys (Romans 5:1-2; 6:1-4) and to realize that even after we have done our part we have not merited our redemption. God has done His part. We must do ours to receive the promise (Hebrews 10:36).

—B.J. Clarke

Sympathy

Our deepest sympathy goes out to Eugene Smith and his family in the loss of his mother, **Thelma Smith**. Thelma passed from this life on Wednesday, October 28th at Midland Memorial Hospital—West Campus after suffering a long illness. A graveside service was conducted Saturday, October 31st, at 2:00 p.m. at the Sunset Memorial Gardens.

Prayer Request

Jewell Dennard is not doing very well. She was taken back to Buena Vida Nursing Home Friday, October 30th for constant care. She is in Room #308. Keep Jewell in your prayers.

Laura Olivas, friend and neighbor to Marie Anaya, underwent surgery Wednesday, November 4th at Medical Center Hospital. We need to keep Laura in our prayers.

Concerns Update

Ora McAfee was able to go home from Health South Saturday, October 31st. She seems to be doing well.

Prayer List

Lee Roy Bell; Susan Bosse; Mack Bradford; Charles Browning; Bill Bundick; Neva Carrigan; Steve Chavez; Cruz Coe; Dayton Dennard; Jewell Bettis-Dennard; James & Joyce Drake; John Ford; Hattie Gilmore; Anna Groves; Opal Hager; Linda Horton; Lon & Lana Howard; Bobby Hunt; Bryan Jernigan; Andrué LaFlure; Susan Lee; Tracy Leeth; Connie Lowe; Ora McAfee; Jill McAfee; Jack McCarty; Anna McGlothlin; Flossie Montgomery; Patsy Montgomery; Juan & Estella Morolez; Maxine Newton; Trina Plyler; Evan Rector; Elvia Ruckman; Blair Saldana; Andrew Schwarz; Christa Bella Sellers; Brenda Simmons; Marilyn Upshaw; Teresa Vires; Lisa Wells; Carolyn Wilkerson; Jack Wright

Eisenhower's Shut-ins

Mildred Bell; Neva Carrigan; Ruby Davis; Jewell Dennard; Roberta Hamil; Janice Laminack; Dusty and Kathy Marshall, Janelle Shirley, Wilma Squire and Lester Whisenant;

Remember to keep all of our sick, shut-ins, the bereaved, our military personnel and the spiritually weak in your daily prayers.

Youth

Bible Quiz Question...

What is "Sheol"?

Last Week's Bible Quiz answer...

Goliath said to David, "I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field".

Events

"Wednesday Night Services (November 11th) The **"Devotional Speaker"** is Rudy Ochoa and **"Song leader"** Denny Wilson.

Sunday, November 29th is our **“Fifth Sunday Service”**. We will have a Potluck luncheon after our morning service followed by the evening service. All our visitors are welcome to join us for good food and fellowship.

FYI

Denny Wilson is hosting a weekly radio program called **“Christian Take Aim”** at 6:30 pm Tuesdays; www.thegospelradionetwork.org. Feel free to please pick up a business card on the youth table in the foyer.

Watch **“In Search of the Lord’s Way”** every Sunday morning at 7:30 am on CBS, channel 7.

Also, tune in to hear a message from the Brown Trail Church of Christ on the **“Speaking the Truth in Love”** program every Sunday at 8:00 a.m. on ABC.

Thank You

Thank you so much for showing our family support during the loss of our loved one, Thelma Smith. The luncheon was so nice and allowed us family time to share sweet memories together. Thank you!

Your kindness is appreciated,
Smith and family

C.D.

Office News

Our **“Food Pantry”** is low on food. It needs to be kept supplied with food and supplies for the children’s homes and those in need especially at the holiday season.

The **New Mexico Children’s Home** will be in Odessa Tuesday, December 8th for a food drive. They are requesting **Cream of Chicken Soup**. Monetary donations also accepted.

There is a signup sheet in the foyer for those who would like to host a **“Family Devotional”**. We need hosts for 2016. Please put your name beside the month that works for you.

There will be a **“Ladies’ Project Night”** Thursday, November 12th at 6:30 p.m. We will be making **“Gift Baskets”** for our elderly and shut-ins for the Holiday Season. A list of items needed is posted on our bulletin board. Please sign up for the item or items you would like to donate for the baskets.

November 8, 2015

	A.M.	P.M.
Announcements	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Song Leader	John Carroll	Craig Wesson
Sermon	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Opening Prayer	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Scripture	Josh Weakland	Isaiah Armendarez
Second Prayer	Jacob Carson	Josh Wells
Closing Prayer	Tom Sorenson	Bill Ryan
Lord's Supper		
West...	Cody Wesson	John Wood
	George Warren	Communion
	Dylan Straw	(In Library)
East...	Scot Straw	
	Bill Ryan	
	Isaiah Armendarez	

Other Responsibilities: *Elder* : Allen Weakland 362-1403 *Deacon*: Don Easlon 363-0350 *Pulpit*: Chris Butler 362-7486; *Table*: John Wood 230-0689; *Song Leaders*: Denny Wilson 325-340-2291; *Recording Duties*: Don Easlon 363-0350
Collections: Don Easlon 363-0350

Sunday AM

"Sacred Token"

(Exodus 12:1-14)

Sunday PM

"Peter's Denial"

(Mark 14:66-72)

Our Records

Bible Class... 82

Morning Worship...119

Evening Worship...NA

Wednesday...86

Contribution...\$5,888.38

