

Romans 4:1-2 (NLT2)

Abraham was, humanly speaking, the founder of our Jewish nation. What did he discover about being made right with God? If his good deeds had made him acceptable to God, he would have had something to boast about. But that was not God's way.

I was talking the other day with a friend of mine about the subject of today's verses, which is works, verses faith in Jesus Christ for salvation. And he gave me an example that I really liked, and I wanted to share it with you. And after you read it, it should answer the question "*What did he discover about being made right with God?*"

Suppose you have a woman who goes to a homeless kitchen once a week and helps feed the homeless.

On the other hand, suppose you have a man who is a serial killer and has brutally killed twenty people.

Each week the woman goes home being satisfied with herself for serving in this homeless kitchen, serving food to the poor and is proud of the "work" she has done.

But this serial killer gets caught and thrown in prison for three lifetime sentences.

The woman never goes to church, but she says grace at mealtimes and only knows about Jesus because of Easter and Christmas.

While in prison, one of the inmates shares the gospel with this serial killer and he gives his life to Jesus, praying to God and reading the bible every day.

Once again, the woman serves in a homeless kitchen serving the poor by helping to feed them, whereas this man, who was a serial killer did unspeakable things to the twenty people he murdered.

So the question would be, which one is going to heaven? So many in the world would say the woman, because she helps feed the homeless, maybe even thinking of what Jesus said.

† **Matthew 25:35 (MSG)** *And here's why: I was hungry and you fed me, I was thirsty and you gave me a drink, I was homeless and you gave me a room,*

And for our serial killer they may think of the Ten Commandments.

† **Exodus 20:13** *You shall not murder.*

So with this type of thinking, they have made salvation based upon works, and so many lost think that they are going to heaven, because of the "works" that they have done. Yet didn't Jesus say.

† **John 14:6** *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."*

We know this, but how many times is the mindset more on Works rather than “*the way, the truth, and the life*”? But that’s what the world thinks, that it’s by works and the good things they have done that will get them to heaven. Yet it is the furthest thing from the truth. When we get to heaven, God is not going to ask us, how many homeless people did we feed? How much did we tithe? How often did we serve in the church? How much time did we spend reading our bible. How much time did we pray, or to bring it a little closer to home for the lost, how often did they give thanks before eating a meal?

No, God knows our works,

† **Revelation 2:19** *I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and as for your works, the last are more than the first.*

But what God is really concerned with is what did we do with His Son, Jesus, Who He sent to die for our sins?

We all know **John 3:16** *“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”*

Let’s stop turning it into, “For God so loved the world that He gave us a bunch of work to do, that whoever does these works might have everlasting life.

† **John 6:40** *“And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.”*

† **Ephesians 2:8-10** *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.*