

Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work (John 4:24).

In my previous post I used scriptural arguments which concluded that our Christian faith is the work of God.

We are His workmanship, a new creation, which *He* made, not we ourselves.

In order to make us, (who were spiritually dead sinners), fit for adoption, He sent His Son to acquire all spiritual blessings/gifts necessary for such an endeavor.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ (Ephesians 1:6).

It was the Father whose wisdom and grace found a way, through Christ, to qualify us for Heaven:

...giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light (Colossians 1:12).

Please note there is no mention of man's self-generated faith as a qualifier.

Had that been the case, Paul should have stated, 'giving thanks to you Colossians, whose faith qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.'

Rather it is the spiritual blessings/gifts, including the gift of faith, which Christ merited on our behalf. *These* are what qualify us.

Christ's perfect obedience to the will of the Father was essential to acquiring all blessings/gifts which comprise eternal life.

Just prior to His crucifixion Christ declared:

I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do (John 17:4).

Christ accomplished, with perfection, all that the Father sent Him to do while on Earth.

Jesus reiterates this truth while on the cross: *It is finished* (John 19:30).

But what, exactly did Jesus accomplish; what work did He finish?

Jesus Himself gives us the answer:

...for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world (John 12:47b).

Jesus designates those He is sent to save:

As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him (John 17:2).

Those given to Christ are those who were chosen in Christ by the Father before the foundation of the world, before they were born (Ephesians 1:4).

And on what basis were they chosen? Was it due to their foreseen faith?

No. It was due to the good pleasure of His will which He eternally purposed in Himself without any outside influence whatsoever.

Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will.....which he hath purposed in himself (Ephesians 1:5, 9).

Remember, there is no higher reason or greater cause why it is God does what He does.

His will is the sole rule in determining what is right, good and holy.

Jesus states as much:

At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes.

Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in thy sight (Matthew 11:25-26).

It is *good* when God hides the truth of Christ from many.

Why? Because He willed it.

Why did God choose some for salvation and not all? Because God willed it.

Why did God choose this one rather than that one? Because God willed it.

Why am I a Christian while other family members are not? Because God willed it.

Why do I have faith while others do not? Because God willed it.

We are Christians because God willed to have mercy upon us, not because of foreseen faith we might have (Romans 9: 15-16).

As Creator, Savior and Governor, God has the right to do with His own as He pleases:

Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with mine own? Is thine eye evil, because I am good? (Matthew 20:15).

God has the lawful right to give saving grace or withhold it as He deems good.

Who Did Christ Come to Save?

He came to save as many as the Father had given Him (John 17:2 cited above).

It's not as if Christ hadn't the power to save all mankind, for He states He has power over all flesh (John 17:2).

Rather, He gives eternal life to those given Him, who were chosen by the Father before the foundation of the world.

Christ, the good Shepherd, calls them 'my sheep.'

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

²⁸ *And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.*

²⁹ *My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand* (John 10:27-29).

Those who are ordained/elected/chosen by the Father for salvation will be the recipients of eternal life given them by Christ.

And all those ordained to eternal life will believe:

And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed (Acts 13:48).

Luke does *not* say 'as many as believed were ordained to eternal life.'

Faith is the result of God's election.

God's election is the cause of faith.

Christ accomplished all things necessary to insure/guarantee eternal life for God's chosen ones.

His perfect obedience merited the acquisition of eternal life, which must include all spiritual gifts necessary to effect that acquisition.

And first on that list is a living, holy faith which justifies.
