

“Working It Out”

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The Present Truth 10, 20 (May 17, 1894), p. 320.

It is not in harmony with human nature to acknowledge itself utterly helpless; therefore the religion of human nature is justification by works. This is the heart of the Catholic system, and it is the religion of every unconverted man. He may profess justification by faith as a part of his creed, but unless he knows it as a life he really knows nothing of it. Of all the sacred books of the Eastern religions, Sir Monier Williams has said: —

“I have devoted as much time as any man living to the study of the sacred books, and I have found the one keynote, the diapason, so to speak, of them all is salvation by works, a salvation which may be purchased, the sole purchase-money, being our works and our deserving’s.”

Many quote the words, “Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling,” but they stop there. The apostle goes on, however, “For it is God who works in you both to will and to do” (Phil. 2:12, 13). Unless our works are “done in God,” by the Lord Himself, the works will be just as wicked as we are by nature. **Thank God that He promises to live in us, to work His will and righteousness in our sinful flesh.**