

## 21T11e Secret Agent Christians (Part 5)

Hello my friends. Thanks for joining me at the PUNLA Coffee Table. So, get your coffee or tea. Get comfortable and let's talk. If what I say is nonsense, then it's definitely from me. If anything I say brings you wisdom, then that's just God using me.

We are continuing the series I've titled "Secret Agent Christians". We have been talking about something I heard a pastor say about "Secret Agent Christians." He said there are two groups of Christians; Disciples and Secret Agents. He described the "Secret Agent Christians, as Saved Christians but not disciples of Christ. Those who have done the minimum required for entry to heaven. This really confused me.

So I set out to figure this out and I'm sharing my process with you. First I pray for guidance and allow God to seed my mind. Second, I use the internet and tools to scour the bible for the topic. Then I read and let God guide me. God will guide the process.

Here is the list of scriptures we identified to study on this subject. And, Last time we looked at several scriptures in the 1 John and the gospels.

Next let's look at Acts for the words of Jesus Acts 1:8 *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

Jesus is telling his disciples, he is telling us to go and be witnesses for him to everyone everywhere. Even those that hate us. Action is needed from His followers, if they are to do His commands.

Acts 16:29-31 the Philippian Jailer. *"<sup>29</sup>Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. <sup>30</sup>And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" <sup>31</sup>So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household."*

Unfortunately we don't have much detail of Paul conversation with the Philippian Jailer. But Paul says believe and be saved. We need to remember Paul was a great evangelist.

Paul goes further in Ephesians 2:8-10 *<sup>8</sup>For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup>not of works, lest anyone should boast. <sup>10</sup>For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.*

Paul is clear we are saved through faith and it is a gift of God. Nothing we can do can earn it. But he follows up with the statement we are created for good works which God has prepared for us to do. If we are followers.

Romans 1:16-17 *<sup>16</sup>For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. <sup>17</sup>For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."*

*Salvation to everyone who believes*

Romans 10:9-10 <sup>9</sup> *If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.* <sup>10</sup> *For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.*

*Declare with your month, believe in your heart. It’s easy to see where the reader could stop just with what these verses say. Let’s read on in Titus.*

Titus 3:4-8 <sup>4</sup>*But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,* <sup>6</sup>*whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior,* <sup>7</sup>*that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.* <sup>8</sup>*This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable to men.*

Here is Titus, Paul again reinforces “not by works” and I agree you cannot earn your way to heaven it is a gift of the grace of God toward His followers. But Paul also says in the same sentence “not by works of righteousness which we have done. Which we have done. So as followers we do works of righteousness, not to earn our way into heaven but because we are followers of Christ.

Last let’s look at James. James 2:14-26 <sup>14</sup>*What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him?* <sup>15</sup>*If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food,* <sup>16</sup>*and one of you says to them, “Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,” but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit?* <sup>17</sup>*Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.* <sup>18</sup>*But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.* <sup>19</sup>*You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!* <sup>20</sup>*But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?* <sup>21</sup>*Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar?* <sup>22</sup>*Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect?* <sup>23</sup>*And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.” And he was called the friend of God.* <sup>24</sup>*You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.* <sup>25</sup>*Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out another way?* <sup>26</sup>*For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.*

James is pretty clear about his opinion. Works don’t aid your salvation. There are merely reflections of who you love. If you truly love Christ, it should be evident in your actions, your works. Remember Jesus said any branch that is not fruitful will be cut-off and burned.

During my research another scripture came to mind from Hebrews. Hebrews 6:4-6 <sup>4</sup>*For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit,* <sup>5</sup>*and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come,* <sup>6</sup>*if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame.* <sup>7</sup>*For the earth which drinks in the rain that often comes upon it, and bears herbs useful for those by whom it is cultivated, receives blessing from God;* <sup>8</sup>*but if it bears thorns and briars, it is rejected and near to being cursed, whose end is to be burned.*

If you are a Christian these verses in Hebrews should make you shudder. The author says. “once enlightened” that’s a believer, a Christian. Then, “if they fall away”, this is a believer walking away from the

faith. And they “bear thorns and briers”, are cursed and burned. So much for once saved always saved. So after believing, and tasting the goodness of God we are required to follow Him, take up our cross daily (Matthew 16:24-26) and do the works He has prepared for us to do (Ephesians 2:10)

I’m going to stop here for today. I’ll pick up our discussion next time with the conclusion to my research. So join me again, as we explore if there are really “Secret Agent Christians”

**Let me close with a prayer.**

**Lord Jesus, thank you for the Bible. Please give us the wisdom interrupt your words such that all your scriptures agree. Guide our process as we study your word for understanding. And, I pray that the listener consider the full story, all your scriptures when coming to their own conclusions.**

**I pray these things in your name Jesus. Amen**

Thank you for joining me at the PUNLA Coffee Table. If you liked the message, please click like. And Please Subscribe to our channel. Leave comments here, or our website or email me. I want your feedback so let me know what you think

Until next time at the **PUNLA Coffee Table. God bless.**