GETTING OFF THE TREADMILL GRACEFULLY

Sports/Art

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RIGHT STANDING WITH GOD (Justification) IS **NOT** DETERMINED BY:

MY ANCESTOR'S PERFORMANCE.

MY WAGE PERFORMANCE.

MY FUTURE PERFORMANCE.

NOR BY:

MY RELIGIOUS PERFORMANCE.

Sports/Art

"This is My covenant, which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you: every male among you shall be circumcised." Gen. 17:10

"But an uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin, that person shall be cut off from his people; he has broken the covenant." Gen. 17:14

"You serpents, you brood of vipers, how shall you escape the sentence of hell?" Matt. 23:33

MY RELIGIOUS PERFORMANCE MAY BE DETRIMENTAL IF:

1. IF MY RELIGIOUS PERFORMANCE TRUMPS COMPASSION.

"...The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath." Mark 2:27

"And He entered again into a synagogue; and a man was there with a withered hand. And they were watching Him to see if He would heal him on the Sabbath, in order that they might accuse Him." Mark 3:1-2 "And He said to them, 'Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save a life or to kill?" But they kept silent. And after looking around at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart, He said to the man, 'Stretch our your hand.' And he stretched it out, and his hand was restored." Mark 3:4-5

"This is pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father, to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world." James 1:27

2. IF MY RELIGIOUS PERFORMANCE IS HYPOCRITICAL.

"Beware of practicing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward with your Father who is in heaven." Matt. 6:1

3. IF MY RELIGIOUS PERFORMANCE IS NOT GROUNDED IN THE TRUTH.

"And when you are praying, do not use meaningless repetition, as the Gentiles do, for they suppose that they will be heard for their many words." Matt. 6:7

4. IF MY RELIGIOUS PERFORMANCE IS AN ATTEMPT TO *REPLACE* OR *ADD* TO FAITH.

"Is this blessing then upon the circumcised, or upon the uncircumcised also? For we say, 'Faith was reckoned to Abraham as righteousness.' How then was it reckoned? While he was circumcised, or uncircumcised? Notwhile circumcised, but while uncircumcised." Rom. 4:10 "Being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus." Rom. 3:24

"Behold, I Paul, say to you that if you receive circumcision, Christ will be of no benefit to you." Gal. 5:2

"You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace." Gal. 5:4 "And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had while uncircumcised, that he might be the father of all who believe without being circumcised, that righteousness might be reckoned to them, and the father of circumcision to those who not only are of the circumcision, but who also follow in the steps of the faith of our father Abraham which he had while uncircumcised." Rom. 4:11-12

"...Break up your fallow ground, and do not sow among thorns. Circumcise yourselves to the Lord and remove the foreskins of your heart men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem, lest My wrath go forth like fire and burn with none to quench it, because of the evil of your deeds." Jer. 4:3-4

"Circumcise then your heart, and stiffen your neck no more." Deut. 10:16

APPLICATION FOR ME:

"Those who desire to make a good showing in the flesh try to compel you to be circumcised, simply that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ." Gal. 6:12

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Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound That saved a wretch like me!

l once was lost but now am found, Was blind but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And grace my fears relieved;

How precious did that grace appear The hour I first believed.

My chains are gone. I've been set free, my God, my Savior has ransomed me. And like a flood His mercy reigns, unending love, amazing grace. The Lord has promised good to me, His word my hope secures; He will my shield and portion be As long as life endures. My chains are gone. I've been set free, my God, my Savior has ransomed me. And like a flood His mercy reigns, unending love, amazing grace. The earth shall soon dissolve like snow, the sun forbear to shine.

But God, Who called me here below Will be forever mine, will be forever mine. You are forever mine.

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At Calvary

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Years I spent in vanity and pride Caring not my Lord was crucified

Knowing not it was for me He died on Calvary

Mercy there was great and grace was free Pardon there was multiplied to me

There my burdened soul found liberty at Calvary

O the love that drew salvation's plan! O the grace that bro't it down to man! O the mighty gulf that God did span at Calvary Mercy there was great and grace was free Pardon there was multiplied to me

There my burdened soul found liberty at Calvary

