

Transforming Daily
“ . . . what does the Lord require of you . . . ”
Micah 6:8

I consider Micah 6:8 to be the key verse for the whole book. But keep in mind that Micah was a prophet to the Southern kingdom of Judah, and he was preaching for their repentance, not necessarily their salvation. Micah’s prophecy was to call Judah back to God and away from following the customs of the surrounding nations and the waywardness of the Northern Kingdom of Israel. The Southern kingdom (whose lineage through which Christ came) was considered the remnant regarding the divided kingdoms. However, just as the Northern kingdom was captured and destroyed, so too, the Southern kingdom met the same outcome about 150 years later. Judah’s message was for the children of God to remember who they were, who God was, who they were in covenant with God and who God was in covenant with them. The end result of Micah’s message was for them to “do justly,” “love mercy,” and “walk humbly” before God.

Some believers (and I suppose some unbelievers as well) point to this passage as a proof text that salvation comes by way of works, or otherwise stated, “You must do and be good to go to heaven.” Micah is not talking about what one must do to be saved, but is admonishing the one who is in right relationship with God to get and remain in right fellowship with Him. Micah isn’t telling the children of God that it is “required” of them to “do justly,” “love mercy,” and “walk humbly before your God” in order to establish a covenant with Him. Micah is telling the children of Israel that because they are already in covenant with God that it is “required” of them to “do justly,” “love mercy,” and “walk humbly” before God (in other words, repent). These are clearly two different issues. For the New Testament believer it is no different. The believer doesn’t “do justly,” “love mercy,” and “walk humbly” before God in order to get saved, but because the believer is already in covenant with God through the shed blood of the Lord, Jesus Christ, they are to “do justly,” “love mercy,” and “walk humbly” before God. Therefore the doing of what was necessary for salvation rests squarely on the shoulders (or cross) of Jesus Christ who graciously and mercifully offers through His work on the cross the gift of eternal life. Again, relationship with God through Jesus Christ is one thing, maintaining daily fellowship with Him is another.

How about you, do you have a relationship with God through Jesus Christ? Nothing more and nothing less, are you trusting Him alone for your eternal life? Having a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ, how is your daily fellowship with Him? Do you practice the spiritual disciplines of prayer, Bible study, soul winning, general ministry and service? If not, ask yourself the question, “What does the Lord require of you?”