

Ways to Salvation

WORKS:

The concept of works as the way to salvation is the idea of the Roman Catholic Church. It contends that individuals achieve salvation through their individual efforts. By following the Seven Sacraments of the Church one will reach salvation. The Church's control of these sacraments gave it almost total power over Europe from 475 to 1517.

FAITH:

The concept of faith alone is attributed to Martin Luther. Luther believed that the way to salvation was through a person's individual belief in Christ as the Savior of Men. Luther went on to say that the Bible should be studied in the vernacular so that every man was his own priest. This change greatly weakened the power of the Roman Catholic Church.

PREDESTINATION:

The concept of predestination is attributed to John Calvin. It was Calvinist belief that salvation was determined at birth. One was either elect (saved) or damned. The proof that one was of the elect was in his or her accomplishments on earth. A person that was one of the elect would be religious and prosperous. This led in America to the Protestant work ethic.