

THE INSTRUCTOR



"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." 2 Timothy 3:16

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SALVATION BY FAITH

When one says salvation is by faith he speaks the truth. There is abundance of proof of this fact in the Scriptures. (John 3:16; 20:30-31; Acts 16:31; Rom. 5:1; 1 Cor. 1:21). But when one says salvation is by "faith only" he does not speak the truth. There is not one verse of Scripture in either the Old Testament or the New that teaches salvation by "faith only." The doctrine of salvation by "faith only" is a false doctrine that originated with men and was not taught by an inspired writer of the Bible.

Perhaps someone would say, "What makes the difference?" We might illustrate like this. If I were to say, "Good health is dependent upon good food," you would agree. But if I were to say, "Good health is dependent upon good food ONLY," you would immediately say such is not true because other things are also essential if one is to enjoy good health. Pure water, fresh air, and exercise are also necessary to good health.

"Without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a reward-

er of them that diligently seek him." (Heb. 11:6). Thus without faith there can be no salvation. "But he that believeth not shall be damned," said the Lord in Mark 16:16. But on the other hand there can be faith and still no salvation. (John 12:42-43). Some teach salvation by GRACE UNCONDITIONALLY and use Ephesians 2:8-9 to try to prove it. Others teach salvation by FAITH ONLY and use Ephesians 2:8-9 to try to prove it. Surely these two verses do not teach both these doctrines which contradict each other. If salvation is by GRACE UNCONDITIONALLY then faith has nothing to do with it. If on the other hand salvation is by FAITH ONLY then grace has nothing to do with it. If we pay attention to what is said in Ephesians 2:8-9 we will see that salvation is by grace through faith. "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God; not of works, lest any man should boast."

Grace is God's part toward man's salvation. Because of God's favor toward

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Editorial

How Do You Value Truth

We judge the value of persons, places and things by their position, ability, relationship or worth. Many things are considered important which have no real value at all, while no emphasis is put on things of great value by many people. Often, the most important or valuable thing is overlooked. For example, I heard of a man who "kicked a stone out of his path." Another man came along and picked it up and discovered that it was a large diamond.

Truth elevates man above the beast of the field. A knowledge of the truth will make one free from superstition. When believed and obeyed the truth will liberate an individual from the love, practice, and guilt of sin. Our Lord said: "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." (John 8:32). The apostle Peter said: "SEEING YE HAVE PURIFIED YOUR SOULS IN OBEYING THE TRUTH through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently." (1 Peter 1:22). God's grace has provided the truth. Man's faith prompts him to obey the truth in order to be saved! Jesus

said: "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." (Mark 16:16). Brother Peter observed in 1 Peter 1:22-25 that the "word of God" which is "truth" purifies. He also suggests that we are "born again not of corruptible seed but of incorruptible" and that it (the truth—the seed—the Word of God) "liveth and abideth forever." When an alien sinner obeys the Gospel he is saved from his past sins, being washed in the blood of Christ, and is added to the Lord's church. (See Acts 2:47).

Life based upon the truth of the gospel is a better and fuller life. Parents who obey the truth are better parents. The truth when obeyed makes better husbands and wives. Communities and nations are better places in which to live when respect for and obedience to the truth is shown.

Wicked men may bind, persecute, and put into prison, or even kill the messengers of truth, but the word of God cannot be destroyed. In fact, it cannot be bound or put in prison.

Truth is of transcendent value and is absolutely essential to our eternal welfare. It is truly "the pearl of great price." We must be willing to "buy the truth and sell it not" if we would be recipients of eternal glory.

How do you value the truth? The truth about God, Christ and the Holy Spirit? The truth about how to be saved, how to worship and serve God? The truth about the oneness of the church, its organization and its work? The truth about how to live as a child of God? Your attitude toward the truth (whether or not you have a love of the truth) will determine your actions. Your actions will certainly determine your eternal destiny! Are you willing to "sell" all you have that you might "buy the truth?" If you haven't obeyed the truth, "who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth?" (See Gal. 3:1).

(CRS)

The Man Who Disturbed People

"And the whole multitude of them arose and led him unto Pilate. And they began to accuse him, saying, We found this fellow perverting the nation, and forbidding to give tribute to Caesar, saying that he himself is Christ the King. And Pilate asked him, saying, Art thou the King of the Jews? And he answered him and said, Thou sayest it. Then said Pilate to the chief priests and to the people, I find no fault in this man. And they were the more fierce, saying, He stirreth up the people, teaching through out all Jewry, beginning from Galilee to this place." (Luke 23:1-5).

As one reads the news reports in the religious papers that have news reports, he is impressed with the number of preachers who are enjoying ministries which are both pleasant and peaceful. Now everyone must admit that such conditions are certainly desirable; but when one remembers what the New Testament says about the lives of Christ and His early disciples, he is made to wonder just how these undisturbed conditions can exist today in this sinful world along with so much worldliness, indifference and actual wrong-doing in the church. No inspired man ever said that Jesus lived undisturbed or undisturbingly. He was, on the contrary, the great disturber of men. (See Matt. 10:34-39 and Luke 23:1-10). No gathering in which Jesus spoke remained comfortable, and those who loved ease and pleasant things considered Him a trouble-maker. His disciples were accused of turning the world upside down, and Paul, perhaps His most illustrious follower, had serious trouble in some of the churches he had established. It should be observed, however, that neither Christ nor His disciples ever caused trouble simply for the thrill of it, or even to have their own way. It was their devotion to the truth which brought about the disturbing conditions for which they were responsible. Loyalty to the truth is the only excuse which any faithful Christian is justified in offering for being considered a trouble-maker or a disturbed of the peace. Truth and error are opposed

to each other, and no person can be loyal to the truth while winking at or compromising with error.

—Leslie G. Thomas in THE EXAMINER

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SALVATION BY FAITH

man, which was brought about not by man's goodness or obedience toward God, but rather by God's goodness and mercy. He made it possible for man to be saved through faith. Faith that God is and in Jesus Christ as His Son which prompts one to obey what the Lord commands, brings salvation. Faith ONLY saves no one (James 2:24); faith which works by love Gal. 5:6), saves the soul.

Noah and his house were saved from the wickedness of the old world by faith. He saved himself and others by doing what God commanded. He "prepared the ark to the saving of his house." (Heb. 11:7). The nation of Israel was saved from their enemy, the Egyptians, by faith. They took the means of escape which the Lord provided. "By faith they passed through the Red Sea as by dry land." (Heb. 11:29). The city of Jericho was a gift of God to Israel (Josh. 6:2), but they still had to obey God in order to receive it. "By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about seven days." (Heb. 11:30).

Salvation today is by faith, when that faith is strong enough to cause us to obey exactly what the Lord has commanded. In Galatians 3:26 Paul says, "For we are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus." In the next verse he tells us how we get into Christ and how we put on Christ. "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." Man cannot be saved by obeying the law of Moses or keeping the Ten Commandments. He cannot be saved by works of his own devising nor by keeping the doctrines and commandments of men. But he is saved by working the works of God which consist of faith (John 6:29), repentance (Acts 17:30), confession of faith in Christ (Matthew 10:32), and by being baptized in the name of Christ for the remission of sins. (Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16).

—Paul S. Gray in BIBLE HERALD

I Have Never Known

In spite of the thinking of many of my brethren, I have never known:

worship on Sunday and also too tired to go to work on Monday.

1. A farmer who failed in life because he quit early to attend the Wednesday Bible lessons.

5. A Christian to ever be strengthened by engaging in recreation when he should be worshipping God.

2. A farmer who became poverty stricken because he refused to plow on Sunday but rather chose to go to worship.

6. Anyone ever being made better by staying away from the worship because they do not like someone who is there.

3. A business man who ever lost his business because he closed on Sunday.

7. A strong spiritual Christian who neglected the assemblies of the church.

4. Anyone who was too tired to go to

HAVE YOU?

—Selected

Sentence Sermons

The man who expects to go to heaven should take the time to learn what route will get him there.

Some people remind me of blisters; they don't show up until all the work is done.

Beware of the saint with an open mouth and a closed pocketbook.

If you cause a man to think he is right, when he is wrong, you are a hypocrite.

Zeal without knowledge is the sister of folly and it leads to eternal ruin.

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