

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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SOME THINGS THAT MAN CAN NOT PROVE! (NO. 2)

Let us continue our study of some things that are often taught or preached that man can not prove by the Scriptures.

4. **"Justification is by faith only"** (or as it is sometimes expressed), **"Justification is solely by faith."**

REPLY: This doctrine (however it may be expressed) is taught as if it was true, but it is never proven by the Scriptures!

Preachers (and other advocates of this doctrine) often cite a number of passages that attribute justification (or salvation or remission of sins) to faith in Christ such as Rom. 5:1; John 3:16; 3:36; 5:24; Acts 16:31; 10:43, etc. in an effort to prove that the doctrine is taught in the Scriptures.

A close examination of each of these passages will reveal that they *do* teach justification (or salvation or remission of sins) is by *faith*, but not a one of them (nor any other passage in the New Testament) teaches that justification (or salvation) is by faith *only*! The word (or thought of) *only* is *added* by a wishful imagination.

If justification or salvation is **"by faith only"** nothing else is involved in our salvation or justification. Grace would not be involved! A sinner would not have to repent of his sins in order to be saved! Confession of one's faith would not be necessary. Baptism would not be essential. Yet the Scriptures show that all of the above things are essential to salvation (as well as other things).

NOTE: To see that these listed above are essential to salvation read the following Scriptures: Titus 2:11-14; Eph. 2:5, 8-9; Acts 17:30-31; 3:19; 2:38; Rom. 10:9-10; Mt. 10:32-33; Acts 8:36-37 (KJV); 1 John 4:15; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:36-41; Rom. 6:3-4; Col. 2:11-13; Gal. 3:26-27; Acts 8:12-13; 8:26-39; 18:8; 16:30-34; 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21, etc.

Not only do the Scriptures not say (nor teach) that *"justification (or salvation) is by faith only"*, but it clearly tells us that such is not the case. Listen to James 2:24. It says: **"Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only."** Advocates of "faith only justification" remove the **"not"** from James 2:24. (To be continued) (CRS)

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Editorial...

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

Since all have sinned and thus are convicted as sinners (see Rom. 3:23; Gal. 3:22; 1 Kgs. 8:46; Eccl. 7:20, etc), and **"the wages of sin is death"** (Rom. 6:23), all responsible beings are lost and stand in need of a Saviour.

Jesus Christ came to be the Saviour of sinners. After Jesus died on the cross for the sins of the world and had ascended into heaven, we have a record where the question as to what a sinner must do to be saved was asked. Here they are.

In Acts 2:37 the Jews on Pentecost who had crucified Jesus were pricked in their hearts and said: **"...Men and brethren, what shall we do?"**

We read in Acts 9:6 that Saul **"...trembling and astonished said,**

Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?"

The jailor at Philippi where Paul and Silas were in prison **"came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas, And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"** (Acts 16:29-30)

The basic question that was in each of the above passages was the same. It was **"What must I do to be saved?"**

Since man is lost in sin this question is of grave importance. Because of the uncertainty and brevity of life, the certainty of death, the beauties and grandeur of heaven and the horrors of hell, none of us should live without making preparation to meet God as revealed in the Scriptures. See Mark 8:36-37.

I. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE SAVED?

To Be Saved Means:

1. *Deliverance from darkness to light!* In Col. 1:13 Paul said: **"Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son."** Jesus sent Saul to the Gentiles **"To open their eyes and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me."** (Acts 26:17-18) Also read & study 1 Peter 2:9; John 3:19; Ephesians 5:8, 11.

2. *No longer condemned for past sins!* Jesus said: **"...He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath ever-**

lasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is past from death unto life." (John 5:24) Also read & study Rom. 8:1-3 & 2 Tim. 1:9.

3. Justification and peace!
In Romans 5:1 Paul declared: "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through out Lord Jesus Christ." In verse 9 we read: "Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him." Verse 10 says: "...We shall be saved by his life." Also read and study John 14:27; Phil. 4:7 & Col. 3:15, etc.

4. We are new creatures! In 2 Cor. 5:17 Paul said: "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are past away; behold, all things are become new." Also read and study Romans 6:3-4; Galatians 6:15 & Col. 3:9-10, etc.

5. We are God's children! In Gal. 3:26-27 Paul said: "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." Also read and study John 3:1-7; Rom. 8:16-17; Eph. 5:1, 8; 1 John 3:10; 2 Cor. 6:17-18; 1John 2:1 & 3:18, etc.

6. We are heirs of God! In Romans 8:16-17 we read: "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint – heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together." In Galatians 4:7 Paul declared: "Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ." Also read and study Galatians

3:26-29; Titus 3:7; James 2:5 & 1 Peter 3:7, etc.

II. HOW CAN WE KNOW WE ARE SAVED?

A. Not by our "feelings"!
Saul of Tarsus persecuted saints. He "made havoc of the church..." He "punished them oft in every synagogue, and compelled them to blaspheme" and "when they were put to death," he "gave his voice against them." (See Acts 8:3; 26:9-11). NOTE: While committing these violent acts against saints (and thus against Jesus), Saul had a "good conscience". (See Acts 23:1) FURTHER NOTE: Saul is an example that "feelings" cannot be trusted. Although he "verily thought" he was right, later he learned he was doing the wrong things. Also read and study Prov. 14:12; Jeremiah 17:9 & Prov. 28:26.

B. Not by what others may say about us!

Jesus said: "Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! For so did their fathers to the false prophets." (Luke 6:26) NOTE: Some preachers may tell you that you are saved because you prayed "the sinner's prayer". That does not come from the Word of God. Don't be deceived by them!

C. Not by doctrines of men!
During His personal ministry here on earth Jesus said: "But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." (Matthew 15:9) In Titus 1:14 the apostle Paul said: "Not giving heed to Jewish fables, and commandments of men, that turn from the truth."

D. Not by worldly wisdom! 1 Cor. 1:21 tells us: "For after that in the wisdom of God the world

by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe." NOTE: The world by its wisdom cannot know God!

E. We can know by what is written! John said: "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God." (1 John 5:13) NOTE: We cannot have eternal life (in hope now and later possess it in actuality) unless we read what is written in the New Testament.

F. We can know when we obey God's will! We read in 1 John 2:3-5: "And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar,

and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him." NOTE: To be saved is to be in him and to know him. We can only know that we know him and thus know that we are saved if we keep his commandments.

(To be continued) (CRS)

Persistence And Determination

Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence & determination.

Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent.

Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb.

Education alone will not; the world is full of educated derelicts.

Persistence and determination alone are "omnipotent", (very powerful - CRS) (adapted) --Author unknown

SENTENCE SERMONS

Regardless of the wealth you may have, if you are without true friends, you are poor.

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Be bold in standing for truth and righteousness, but be very careful what you fall for..

* * * * *

A rumor and gossip will get thicker as you spread them.

* * * * *

If you do not have the truth in your life, you are not only poor, but you are very poor!

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