

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 CANNOT PROVE! (NO. 5)

As we continue our examination of some things that are often taught or preached that man can not prove by the Scriptures, let us now consider the following.

6. "The salvation of sinners is **wholly of grace...**" (Taken from The Standard Manual for Baptist Churches, Art. IV, p. 61 by Hiscox)

Without doubt, such passages as Eph. 2:5 & Acts 15:11 teach that sinners are saved by grace!

"Wholly" is defined by Webster's Seventh New Collegiate Dictionary as follows: "1: to the full or entire extent: COMPLETELY 2: to the exclusion of other things: SOLELY."

If the salvation of sinners is *wholly* of grace, it necessarily follows that *there is nothing else* to which salvation of sinners may be attributed. Since "*wholly*" means "*completely*" or "*solely*", all other things are excluded! Everything such as the word of God, faith, repentance, confession and baptism would be excluded. If not, why not?

We learn from Titus 2:11-12 that *the grace of God that saves is the grace of God that "teaches" us what to do in order to be saved.* That grace has given us "**the gospel of the grace of God.**" It is also called "**the word of his grace.**" (See

Acts 20:24, 32). The gospel is "**the power of God unto salvation**" to all true believers.

Sinners are saved "**by grace through faith**" according to Eph. 2:8. NOTE: Since it is *through faith*, salvation cannot be "**wholly of grace**". Such passages as Mk. 16:15-16; Acts 16:30-31; Rom. 10:9; 5:1-2; 1 Cor. 1:21, etc. teach *that sinners are saved by faith, but not by grace only!*

Sinners *are saved by the gospel, the word of God.* (See Rom. 1:16; Jas. 1:21; 1:18, etc.)

Sinners *are saved by repentance!* (See 2 Cor. 7:10; Acts 2:38; 17:30; 3:19)

Sinners *are saved by confession!* (See Rom. 10:9-10; 1 Jno. 4:15).

Sinners *are saved by baptism!* (See Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16; Gal. 3:26-27 & 1 Pet. 3:21).

Sinners *are saved by obedience!* (See Heb. 5:8-9; Mt. 7:21).

There are other things such as Jesus Christ, His death, His blood, etc. to which salvation may be attributed. In spite of all the Scriptural evidence to the contrary there are many people who teach that "the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace"! It is a patently, false doctrine! Abhor it! (To be continued) (CRS)

THE INSTRUCTOR

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ELDERS

Lionel Gary

Rex Henson

Carrol R. Sutton

DEACONS

Mike Pack

Jerry Tucker

Gerald White

CARROL RAY SUTTON

Editor

Website: <eastalbertvillechurchofchrist.com>

Send all questions, comments and criticisms to the Editor, 4777 US Highway 431, Albertville, AL 35950 or at <theinstructor@bellsouth.net> or at (256) 878-0920 or <sutton413@bellsouth.net>

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Editorial...

HOW NEAR IS GOD?

(Read Acts 17:22-31)

Some people declare plainly that "There is no God". (See Psalms 14:1) When one denies the existence of God, he is "without excuse" according to Rom. 1:18-32. There are others who merely doubt God's existence.

To please God and to come to him, one must believe that He is, and that "he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him." (See Heb. 11:6). Many believe in the existence of God, but they believe that He is far removed from and not concerned about the earth and its inhabitants.

In declaring the true God to the Athenians in Acts 17:27 Paul said: "Though He be not far from every one of us." God is not far from any one of us. Consider the following passages.

--Psalms 34:18- "The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit."

--Psalms 145:18- "The Lord is nigh unto all that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth."

--Psalms 119:151- "Thou are near, O Lord, and all thy commandments are truth."

--Jeremiah 23:23- "Am I a God at hand, saith the Lord, and not a God afar off?"

--Philippians 4:5- "Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand."

OBSERVATION: The Lord God is near in a special way to those who have broken hearts and contrite spirits who call upon Him in truth!

Let us now consider how near God is (or the nearness of God).

HOW NEAR IS GOD?

I. GOD IS NEAR ENOUGH TO BE FOUND BY ALL THAT CALL UPON HIM! Isaiah 55:6-7 says: "Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him whiles he is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon." NOTE: The principles given here are to seek the Lord while He may be found and call upon him while He is near. The sinner are to forsake his ways and thoughts and return to the Lord God, and He will have mercy upon him and God will abundantly pardon!

We read in Psalms 145:18 that "The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all

them that call upon him in truth."NOTE: The Lord is near all those who call upon Him "in truth!"

Read Romans 10:13-18 very carefully and you will understand the following facts. (1) Whosoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. (2) One must believe in order to call upon the name of the Lord. (3) One must hear the Word of God in order to believe. (4) Preachers should be sent to preach God's Word. (5) One must obey the gospel (see v. 16).

Read Acts 2:21-41 and you should be impressed with the fact that a person calls on the name of the Lord by hearing the gospel, believing it, repenting of his sins and being baptized for the remission of sins. At this point one who was lost is saved from past sins. (See Acts 22:16; Mark 16:15-16; Gal. 3:26-27, etc.)

II. GOD IS NEAR ENOUGH TO SEE US AND TO KNOW ALL ABOUT US! Hagar fled from Sarai into the wilderness, but God saw her. Jonah could not flee from God.

Read carefully Psalms 139:1-12 and you will see that God knows all about us and that we can not flee from his presence.

Prov. 5:21 says "For the ways of man are before the eyes of the Lord, and he pondereth all his goings" and 15:3 says "The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good."

To be further impressed with how near God is, read 2 Chron. 16:9; Heb. 4:13; Mt. 10:30; Ps. 147:4; Jeremiah 23:24, etc.

III. GOD IS NEAR ENOUGH TO HEAR US - EVEN WHEN WE (AS HIS CHILDREN) CONFESS OUR SINS TO HIM.

The Psalmist (66:19-20) said: "But verily God hath heard me; he hath attended to the voice of my prayer. Blessed be God, which hath not turned away my prayer, nor his mercy from me." In 32:5 he also said: "I acknowledged my sin unto thee, & mine iniquity have I not hid, I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord; & thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin."

John said: "And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask anything according to his will, he heareth us." (1 John 5:14.)

John also said: "If we (the children of God - ED) confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9). Also read and carefully meditate upon Prov. 28:13; James 5:16; James 5:19-20; Acts 8:22, etc.)

IV. GOD IS NEAR ENOUGH TO SYMPATHIZE WITH US AS WE CONFRONT THE CARES, RESPONSIBILITIES & BURDENS OF LIFE (Thru His Son).

Hebrews 2:16-18 says: "For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham. Whereof in all things it behooved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. For in that he himself hath suffered, being tempted, he is able to succour (aid - ED) them that are tempted."

The Hebrew writer (4:15-16) also stated: "For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and

find grace to help in time of need." NOTE: That is really near!

V. GOD IS NEAR ENOUGH TO RECEIVE OUR SPIRIT WHEN IT LEAVES OUR BODY! Yes, the spirit leaves the body at death! It does *not* go out of existence! (See Gen. 35:18; Eccl. 12:7; James 2:26; Mt. 10:28; Num. 16:22; Heb. 4:12; Mt. 26:41; Rev. 6:9, etc.).

On the cross Jesus said: "**Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost.**" (Lk. 23:46).

As Stephen was being stoned to death, he called upon God, saying, "**Lord Jesus, receive my spirit...**" (Acts 7:59-60).

Also read carefully Rev. 14:13.

The evidence is plain. The conclusion is clear that *the Lord is near! He is available to provide all the needs of His faithful children!* He is not near enough to

save those who refuse to call upon His name by obeying the gospel of Jesus Christ!

How near is God to you? He is near enough to provide all your spiritual needs if you are willing to submit to His will.

James 4:8 says: "**Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.**"

Are you willing to draw nigh to God by meeting His conditions? We hope that you are?

CRS

NOTICE: It will be a while before the last nine years of THE INSTRUCTOR will be available for mailing. It has not been bound yet. If you have already requested a copy we have your name and address in a notebook. If you haven't sent in your request, please do so at your convenience, if you want to receive one. Copies of the bound volumes will be mailed when they are ready.

GOSPEL MEETINGS at East Albertville in Albertville, AL - May 31 - April 5, 2009 - Regular times on the Lord's Day -7:00pm nightly -E.R. Hall-preacher.
Make plans to visit with us and please tell others!

SENTENCE SERMONS

A \$ sign never precedes genuine "peace of mind". Do not allow \$ signs to blind you!

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All who are spiritually sick (and most people are) need the great physician! (See Lk. 5:31)

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Instead of asking, how should I feel, a lost man should ask, "what must I do to be saved?"

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Sermons with good points of truth should prick the conscience each time they are heard.

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Not only put off until tomorrow, but never do that which you should not do any way.

CHURCH OF CHRIST
4777 US Highway 431
Albertville, AL 35950

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