

News & Notes

Sunday, June 21, 2009

Remember in Prayer: Arland Anderson; Robbie Alberson; Mary Baily; Robert Bennett; Freeman Duncan; Chigger Fortner; Shannon Hastings; Cannan Hawkins; Wayne Hawkins; Dot Ketchum; Robert King; Billy Liming; John and Deliah Mann; Maria Mayes; Diane Mize; Betty Moore; Ann Ray; Brandon Ray; Shad Street; Ruby Tap; Calvin Ursery; Norma Vaughter; Ellis Wilkerson; Alvie Williford;

Sympathy is extended to the family of Lucy Bryant.

Pantry item for the month of June is Purex.

Ashland Events: Today: Youth devotional following morning service; Prayer meeting at 4:00 PM; July 12-16: Gospel meeting with Allen Webster.

Area Events: June 26: Gospel singing at the Danville congregation; in Biggersville; July 12-16: Gospel meeting at the Tiplersville congregation;

Sermon in Preview:

AM: Apostle Profile: Judas Iscariot
PM: Apostle Profile: Matthias

For the Record (June 14, 2009):

Attendance: 63 Contribution: \$1071.00 Budget: \$1459.00

The Ashland Church of Christ

P. O. Box 25
Ashland, MS 38603-0025
www.ashlandcoc.org
acoc@ashlandcoc.org

Sunday:

Bible Study 9:30 AM
Worship 10:30 AM
Worship 5:00 PM

Wednesday:

Bible Study 7:00 PM

Shepherds:

Barney King
Jeff Roberson
Carrol Street

ASHLAND ANNOUNCER

"Note Those Who So Walk"

Philippians 3:17

2Thessalonians 3:14

DOES THE BIBLE TEACH THAT A PERSON IS SAVED BY FAITH?

Roger D. Campbell

Part 1 of 2

We are not asking about what some religious leader teaches. We are not asking at this point what the creeds or manuals of men state. We want to know what the God of heaven has to say about this. When we ask this question about being "saved," we mean salvation from sin or the washing away of past sins. We know that Jesus came to save people from their sins (Matthew 1:21). Does the Bible teach that a person obtains such salvation by faith? In order to help us understand the Bible's teaching about faith and its connection with the salvation of the soul, we will present and answer four questions.

(1) Is faith a condition of salvation? The Bible says, "*But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him*" (Hebrews 11:6). From this passage we learn that a person cannot please God without faith. Then, it teaches two things about what one must believe: (1) That God exists, and (2) that He rewards those that seek Him. What about faith in Jesus? Jesus said, "*He that believeth on him [Jesus, rdc] is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God*" (John 3:18). So, faith in Jesus as the Christ or Son of God is

also required in order to please the Lord. Yes, faith is a condition of salvation. Let it be clear to all that the Bible does *not* teach that every person who has faith is blessed, regardless of what that faith might be. No, the Bible's message is that one's belief must be in the existence of God (Hebrews 11:6), in Jesus as His Son (John 3:18), and in the word of God or gospel (Mark 16:15,16).

Let us look further. Are there biblical statements that point to the idea of salvation being by faith? Consider some facts. ". . . *whosoever believeth in him [Jesus, rdc] should not perish, but have everlasting life*" (John 3:16). ". . . *through his [Jesus', rdc] name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins*" (Acts 10:43). "*Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house*" (Acts 16:31). "*Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God thorough our Lord Jesus Christ*" (Romans 5:1).

When you put the above-quoted facts together, what do you have? They plainly declare that one receives eternal life by faith, receives remission of sins by faith, is saved by faith, and is justified by faith. These are basically four different ways of saying the same thing. Individually and collectively, these verses say "Yes" to the question, "Does the Bible teach that a person is saved by faith?" Friends, do not argue against the doctrine of salvation by faith. The Bible clearly teaches it.

(2) What about faith without works? The Bible doctrine of salvation by faith is *not* an "I've-got-God-in-my-heart-and-that-is-all-that-matters" type of faith. Once four men carried a sick man on a bed to Jesus in order that the Master might heal Him. The Bible says that Jesus "*saw their faith*" (Mark 2:5). What does that mean? Simply that He saw their faith *in action*. What if a person possesses faith but no action to go with it? From James 2 we learn that faith without works:

1. Does not profit (2:14,16);
2. Cannot save (2:14);

3. Is dead or lifeless (2:17,20,26);
4. Is alone (2:17);
5. Is no better than demons' faith (2:19);
6. Is not perfect or complete (2:22);
7. Will not justify a person (2:24).

Obviously, in God's sight, faith without works "will not get the job done." In the context of James 2, the "works" that join with faith to present a person complete before the Lord are not man's self-appointed works or works of merit, but rather works of obedience.

(3) What are some consequences of the teaching that one is saved by "faith only" or "faith alone?" Read carefully the next two sentences. One: "A person can *only* be saved by faith/believing." Two: "A person is saved by *faith only*." The ideas expressed in these two statements are *not* the same – they are *very different*. Statement one points out the truth that faith is a condition of being saved. The second one claims that one is saved by "faith only," that is, faith is the one and only condition of salvation. This second idea is false! Why? Because it contradicts the Bible.

Remember, any teaching that implies a false doctrine, is itself false. All that means is this: if the consequences of a doctrine are false, then the doctrine itself is false (and thus, must be rejected). In our study, the application is this: if any of the consequences of the "salvation by faith only" teaching are false, then the doctrine of "salvation by faith only" must be false.

"Only" means exclusively or solely, so to state that salvation is by "faith only" means that one is saved 100% by faith, meaning that salvation is by faith and nothing else! If the doctrine of salvation by "faith only" were true, since "only" excludes everything else, then salvation would not be "by grace." But, the Bible teaches salvation by grace (Ephesians 2:8), so the doctrine of "faith only" salvation is false.