

## News & Notes

Sunday, June 28, 2009

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

**Sympathy** is extended to the family of Alice Judy McCain.

**Pantry item** for the month of June is Purex.

**Ashland Events:** Today: Elder's meeting at 4:00 PM; Fellowship meal following evening service; July 12-16: Gospel meeting with Allen Webster.

**Area Events:** Beginning tonight: Vacation Bible School at the Southaven congregation; July 12-16: Gospel meeting at the Tiplersville congregation;

### Sermon in Preview:

AM: Apostle Profile: Paul

PM: Last-Sunday-of-the-Month Singing

### For the Record (June 21, 2009):

Attendance: 69      Contribution: \$1025.00      Budget: \$1459.00

### The Ashland Church of Christ

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#### 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 2 of 2

If the doctrine of salvation by "faith only" were true, since "only" excludes everything else, then repentance would not be required. But, the Bible teaches that repentance is, indeed, a condition of salvation (Acts 3:19; 11:18). Thus, the doctrine of "faith only" salvation is false.

If the doctrine of salvation by "faith only" were true, then every person that possesses faith would be a saved person. How could that be true in view of John 12:42,43? There it is written, *"Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him [Jesus, rdc]; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God."* Did many chief rulers believe on the Christ? The Bible says they did. Yet, according to the Bible, they would not confess Him. What did Jesus say about a person that will not confess Him? *"Whosoever shall confess me before men, him shall the Son of man also confess before the angels of God: But he that denieth me before men shall be denied before the angels of God"* (Luke 12:8,9). Thus, one that does not confess the Christ, even if such a one believes on Him, cannot please the Lord. The record of John 12:42,43 speaks of those that believed, but were not saved because they would not confess the Lord. Again we see that the "faith only" doctrine is false.

Most denominational groups accept the "faith only" doctrine. One creed book states, "We are accounted righteous before God, only for the merit of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, by faith, and not for our own works or deservings. Wherefore, that we are justified by faith only is a most wholesome doctrine, and very full of comfort" [*Constitution and Discipline of the Methodist Protestant Church*, 1936 Revision, "Articles of Religion," p. 37]. If the "faith only" doctrine contradicts the Bible, as we have clearly shown that it does, then how in the world can it be a doctrine that is "very full of comfort?!" Know this: such comfort is not of God, but is of the devil.

A number of denominational preachers have affirmed in public debates their acceptance of "faith only" salvation. For instance, in the Elkins-Ross Debate, Mr. Bob Ross of the Baptist denomination affirmed this proposition: "The scriptures teach that salvation comes at the point of faith alone before and without any further acts of obedience" [*Elkins-Ross Debate*, p. 166]. He attempted to prove an unproveable doctrine!

**(4) What kind of faith pleases the Lord?** The Bible teaches that one is justified *"by faith"* (Romans 5:1), but *"not by faith only"* (James 2:24). Hebrews 11 presents from the Old Testament case after case of individuals that pleased Jehovah "by faith." When one carefully reads that great chapter, he sees that the faith of Abel was an obedient faith, as was the faith of Enoch, Noah, Abraham, and all others that are noted. James 2:21 declares that Abraham was *"justified by works,"* yet Hebrews 11:8,17 describes him as one that acted *"by faith."* Which is correct, to say that Abraham was in good standing with the Lord *"by works"* or *"by faith?"* Both answers are correct, because that is what the Bible says. The "works" of James 2 were works of obedience – Abraham acted on his faith by doing what the Lord told him to do. And, the "faith" of Hebrews 11 was a living, active faith.

Galatians 5:6 says, *"For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh*

*by love."* What is it that avails or causes a person to please the Lord? According to this verse, it is a person's faith. What kind of faith? Faith that works. What is the proper motive for such faith taking action? Love.

Jesus is the author of salvation (Hebrews 5:9). What kind of salvation? Eternal salvation. For whom is He the author of such salvation? The text says for all those that "obey" Him. Since one must obey the Christ in order to be saved, and since one is saved by faith, then the faith that pleases God must be an obedient one. Does the Bible teach that a person is saved by faith? Yes, by faith that is obedient, acting according to the will of God which is revealed in the Bible.

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## Sharpening the Ax

Tom Moore

One man challenged another to an all-day wood chopping contest. The challenger worked very hard, stopping only for a brief lunch break. The other man had a leisurely lunch and took several breaks during the day. At the end of the day, the challenger was surprised and annoyed to find that the other fellow had chopped substantially more wood than he had. "I don't get it," he said. "Every time I checked, you were taking a rest, yet you chopped more wood than I did." "But you didn't notice," said the winning woodsman, "that I was sharpening my ax when I sat down to rest."

Spiritually speaking, if we would spend more time "sharpening our ax" – studying the word of God, we would accomplish much more in the kingdom of God. We can never do better than we know, and seldom do we do as well as we know. Remember, the Bible has given us all that pertains life and godliness (2Peter 1:3), we must have authority for all we do (Colossians 3:17), and it is by the inspired word of God that we will be judged (John 12:48). Thus, if we want to be effective for the Lord we must be about "sharpening our ax." This is why Paul declared, "Give diligence [study - KJV] to present thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, handling aright the word of truth" (2Timothy 2:15).

Think About It!