

SALVATION BY FAITH ALONE?

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8:24; Mark 16:16). But other passages teach us that one must repent of his sins (Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38; Acts 17:30). Other passages tell us that salvation comes by a confession of faith (Romans 10:9-10; Acts 8:37). And still many other passages say that salvation comes through baptism (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 1 Peter 3:21; Acts 22:16, etc.)

The clear conclusion is that there is no one verse that gives us the entire picture of man's responsibilities when it comes to securing his salvation. To claim that "Any verse that ascribes salvation to faith/belief, with no other requirement mentioned, is a declaration that salvation is by faith alone" is to make a careless and negligent claim. It also forces a contradiction with other passages of scripture that do require other things one must do in order to be saved.

Incidentally, Hebrews 5:8-9 and 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 clearly, in no uncertain terms, require "obedience" in order to obtain salvation. Obedience only salvation? To the exclusion of faith? Hmmm

Think about it! 

The elements of our worship, as prescribed by God's word, are as follows:

- **SINGING:** Ephesians 5:18,19; Colossians 3:16
- **PREACHING/TEACHING:** Acts 2:42; Eph. 4:11,12
- **PRAYING:** Acts 2:42; Acts 12:5
- **LORD'S SUPPER:** 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Acts 20:7
- **GIVING:** 1 Corinthians 16:1,2; 2 Corinthians 9:6,7

COME WORSHIP WITH US!

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY...9:00
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP.....10:00
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP.....6:00
WEDNESDAY EVENING SERVICES....7:00

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- www.defendthegospel.com
 - 1st Sunday Singing Night: 6 pm
 - 5th Sunday Night: Guest Speaker
 - Men's Business Meeting. 1st Sunday evenings following services.



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"They...searched the scriptures daily..." –Acts 17:11

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Michael Pickford

I recently read an article on a popular religious website called "Gotquestions.org." The article deals with James 2:24 and seeks to explain the phrase "Faith alone" in that passage. The article then goes about trying to explain why James 2:24 doesn't mean what it says, and why "Not by faith alone" doesn't really mean "Not by faith alone." Hmmm. I'm not meaning to deal with every aspect of the article in this post, but I do want to focus in on one statement they made which caught my eye. Here's the quote,"

"Any verse that ascribes salvation to faith/belief, with no other requirement mentioned, is a declaration that salvation is by faith alone."

Really? Let's apply this reasoning to things other than faith. For example, Jesus stated in Luke 13:3, "I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish." Now, I think we would agree that if one is not going to "perish," then he is saved. Jesus stated that if one repents he will not perish. So, if one repents he will be saved. However, repentance is the only act he mentions in this verse. He even reiterates it in verse 5. There's no mention of faith, confession, baptism. Nothing! So, following the reasoning put forth in the aforementioned article above, we should conclude that we are saved by Repentance alone?! To put it more in line with what they have stated. Luke 13:3 requires repentance, with no other requirement mentioned, so by their reasoning, this must be a declaration that salvation is by repentance alone.

"But wait," they would say. "We know salvation is not by repentance alone because there are other verses that require faith." Exactly! Now they're coming around to a proper mode of reasoning when it comes to God's revelation. If Luke 13:3 doesn't teach salvation by repentance alone because other passages require other things, then John 3:16 doesn't teach salvation by faith alone because other passages require other things.

In fact, the Bible says that one must first hear the Gospel (Romans 10:17). One must then believe what they have been taught, that Jesus is the son of God (John

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Daily Bible Study

by Michael Pickford

This Week's Theme: Don't Be A Fool

Weekly Memory Verse: Psalm 14:1

Introduction: A fool is a man whose stupidity is proven by his actions or words. Webster defines a fool as one destitute of reason; a silly person; a buffoon. This word "fool" is a strong word. Vine says the word signifies, "without reason." It shows a want of mental sanity and sobriety, a reckless and inconsiderate habit of mind, and the lack of commonsense perception of the reality of things natural or spiritual. A fool is not the person to be. Yet in spite of all these definitions and strong words; in spite of what this word fool denotes, we look around us today in this society and we see countless people who perfectly fit the description of this word fool. This Week, let's think about some things the Bible says makes one a fool.

Monday: Denying God Makes One A Fool. Psalm 14:1; Psalm 10:4; Psalm 19:1-4; Romans 1:20-21

1. List three attributes of the one who says there is no God.
2. What keeps the wicked from seeking God and having God in his heart?
3. What proof do we have of God's existence?

Tuesday: Rejecting Christ's Teachings Makes One A Fool.

Matthew 7:24-27; 2 John 9; Matthew 7:21-23

1. What makes the foolish man foolish in Matthew 7:26?
2. What are the results of transgressing the doctrine of Christ?
3. Who did Jesus say would enter the kingdom of heaven?
4. What then can we conclude about the salvation by faith only doctrine? (James 2:24).

Wednesday: Trusting In Money Makes One A Fool. Luke 12:15-21; Proverbs 23:5; Proverbs 11:4; Matthew 6:19-21, 24; 1 Timothy 6:17-19

1. What did Jesus say that one's life does not consist in?
2. What does it mean to covet?
3. What did the Proverbs writer say that riches will do?
4. Will God give special consideration to the rich in the day of wrath?
5. Is it possible to truly love God while loving wealth?
6. Instead of trusting in riches, what did Paul tell Timothy to command the rich to do?
7. What word did Paul use to describe riches in 1 Timothy 6:17?

Thursday: Making Light of Sin Makes One A Fool. Proverbs 14:9; Proverbs 10:23; Psalm 101:3; Romans 1:32

1. To mock sin carries with it the idea of making light of sin, or entertaining oneself with sin. In what ways do people entertain themselves with sin today?
2. In what ways do people set wicked things before their eyes today? (Psalm 101:3).
3. In what ways can we approve of those who practice sinful things today? (Romans 1:32).
4. Would it be wise for all of us to examine our modes of entertainment?

Friday: Denying The Saints Future Resurrection Makes One A Fool. 1 Corinthians 15:35-36; 1 Corinthians 15:12-19; John 11:25-26

1. Look at the context of 1 Corinthians 15:36. Why did Paul refer to some there as "Foolish one(s)"?
2. If one denies the future resurrection of the saints, then he also has to say that "Christ is not _____."
3. If Christ is not risen, our faith is what?
4. If there is no future resurrection of the saints, then what has happened to Christians who have died (fallen asleep)?
5. What did Jesus call Himself, and what grand promise did He make in John 11:25-26?

DUTY LIST...

SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Kenny Todd
Reading: Matthew 23:5-12
- Song Leader.....Michael Pickford
- Opening Prayer.....Tony Jenkins
- Lord's Table:
Lead.....John Nelson
Serve.....Kenny Johnson
Serve.....Lynn Buttrey
- Closing Prayer.....Jeff Isbell

SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Michael Pickford
- Lord's Table.....Michael Pickford

WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Kenny Johnson
- Invitation.....Michael Pickford

Thank You For Serving!

GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION

There is only one true saving plan of Salvation outlined in Scripture. No substitutes will do. Have you really been saved? Get out your Bible and study the plan below.

- Hear The Gospel: Romans 10:17
- Believe: Mark 16:16; John 8:24
- Repent of Sin: Acts 2:38; 17:30
- Confess Faith: Romans 10:9, 10
- Be Baptized: Mark 16:16;
Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21
- Remain Faithful: Rev. 2:10

Obey Today!

**Home Bible Studies
Available Upon Request!**

