



SOUTHSIDE SEARCHER

Southside church of Christ, 1167 South Lowry
Smyrna, TN 37167, Phone (615) 459-7854

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

Volume 16, Number 01

January 05, 2020

"Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness. "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "Therefore, I hope in Him!" The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks Him."

-Lamentations 3:22-25

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

- www.defendthegospel.com
- 1st Sunday Singing Night: 6 pm
- 5th Sunday Night: Guest Speaker
- Men's Business Meeting. 1st Sunday night of each month Following Services.

Missing!

Michael Pickford

A sense of urgency is attached to the word, "Missing." Folks take it seriously when someone's purse is missing. A child comes up missing and urgent alerts sound on all our phones. Rightfully so!

I suggest a matter of "Missing" that is more urgent than these--the eternal salvation of a soul. God is not willing that any should perish, and when one's soul is in jeopardy, we should take the matter seriously. God does!

So, what is missing? Simple, a word. That's right, a word is missing. It's the word, "Only." The "Faith only" plan of salvation has been popular for many years. Folks insist that one is saved at the point of faith, and that any obedience, including baptism, is unnecessary. But the Bible teaches that Jesus became the Author of eternal salvation to those who "Obey Him" (Hebrews 5:8-9). 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 states that those who "do not obey the gospel" will be punished with "everlasting destruction."

If these passages so clearly teach the necessity of obedience, then why do so many people believe and teach faith only? I suppose we could offer many answers to this question, but it's irrelevant. The Bible teaches that one must believe in God and in His Son, Jesus Christ. But the word "Only" is missing. For example, the two most popular passages used to teach the faith only system of salvation are John 3:16, and Romans 5:1. Please read them in your own Bible. You'll see that both require faith. But you'll also see that neither use the word, "Only." The word "Only" is missing. And that's a big deal! If the word "only" were in either of those verses, then the Bible would contradict itself because the passages I referenced above clearly teach the necessity of obedience.

Yes, faith is essential to salvation. No one argues with that. If you do not believe that Jesus is the Son of God, you will die in your sins (John 8:24). But the Lord Himself taught that in order to be saved one must believe AND be baptized (Mark 16:16). Saul was told to "Arise and be baptized and wash away your sins..." (Acts 22:16). His sins would be washed away at the point of baptism. He'd already been believing for three days before he was told that, yet he still had his sins. This is an urgent matter. If someone tries to teach you that faith only saves from John 3:16 and/or Romans 5:1, ask them about that missing word, "Only." 🔍

Evangelist & Editor: Michael Pickford, 615-471-1612, mpickford3@comcast.net

www.defendthegospel.com

Saved On The Coat-Tails Of Your Spouse?

Michael Pickford

What did the apostle Paul mean when he said that the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the believing wife (1 Corinthians 7:14)? Before we can properly understand a difficult passage, we must first identify what it cannot mean. Whenever we approach a difficult passage of scripture, whatever conclusion we come to as to what it teaches, that conclusion can NOT contradict other clear teachings from simpler passages of scripture.

With this thought in mind, we must understand the clear teaching of scripture that no one can be saved upon the merits of another person. Therefore, Paul is not teaching that the unbelieving husband will be saved because his wife is a Christian.

- 1) Each individual is responsible for his own sinful actions (Ezekiel 18:20).
- 2) Each individual will give an account for his own deeds in the judgment (2 Corinthians 5:10).
- 3) No person can be saved without his own personal faith (Mark 16:16; John 3:16).

These are just a few clear passages that teach this concept. I cannot ride into heaven on your coat-tail, nor can you ride into heaven on mine.

So, what is Paul talking about in 1 Corinthians 7:14? To properly understand a passage of scripture, it often helps to understand its historical context. Paul is writing to Christians, many of whom were Jews for many years before they converted to Christ. Many converted Jews in Paul's day had trouble divorcing themselves from the Law of Moses. This is why several Judaizers wanted to impose circumcision upon Gentile converts, teaching that unless one was circumcised according to the custom of Moses, he could not be saved (Acts 15:1).

Another teaching of the Old Law had to do with God's people (Israel) intermarrying with those who were not Jews (Gentiles). God forbade it in the Old Law. Ezra and Nehemiah had to take severe actions to stop mixed marriages. A reading of Ezra 10:3-44 and Nehemiah 13:31-31 will show that the Jews of that day were told to put away their foreign wives and children to please God.

It would seem, based on Paul's statement in 1 Corinthians 7:14, that there were some Christians (former Jews) at Corinth who were concerned about Christians who were married to non-Christians. The question was, should we put them away or remain married to them? Remnants from the Old Law were still in their hearts, and these remnants were telling them to put away their non-Christian spouses.

Again, as he does in so many of his writings, Paul shows a difference between the Law of Moses and the Law of Christ. Under Christ, it is not a sin to be married to someone who is not a Christian. Paul simply used language the former Jews could identify with. Under the Old Law, if a Jew was married to a non-Jew, they were married to someone who was unclean, unsanctified. The result would be that even the children were unholy. Some even viewed the children as being

illegitimate. So when Paul says, "For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband; otherwise your children would be unclean, but now they are holy," he was using language that to the Jew would say, "A Christian is not made unclean if he/she is married to a non-Christian, nor are the children considered unholy in God's eyes because of the union."

This seems to be the best explanation of what Paul's meaning was in the passage. Paul may have had something else in mind, but this explanation fits best for me. Remember, whatever Paul's meaning was, we know he was not teaching that an unbeliever could be saved by the faithful obedience of another person (i.e. His wife). 🔍

DUTY LIST...

SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Michael Pickford
Reading: Acts 8:34-40
- Song Leader.....Michael Pickford
- Opening Prayer.....Kenny Johnson
- Lord's Table:
 - Lead.....Lynn Buttrey
 - Serve.....Jeff Isbell
 - Serve.....John Nelson
- Closing Prayer.....Eli Todd

SUNDAY EVENING

- Scripture Reading...Michael Pickford
Reading: 1 John 2:15-23
- Song Leader..... Michael Pickford
- Lord's Supper..... Michael Pickford

WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader..... Eli Todd
- Invitation.....Michael Pickford

**Thank You For
Serving!**

God's Plan of Salvation

There is only one true plan of Salvation outlined in Scripture. No substitutes will suffice. Have you truly 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**