

(Cont. from pg. 3) Christ to them (I Cor. 2:1,2). They would further conclude he was the true apostle rather than the deceivers they had entertained.

There is a lesson here, brethren. We must, having obeyed the gospel compare our lives to those of Christ and Paul. If we are strong in the flesh, we will be weak in the spirit. If we are strong in the spirit we will appear to be weak in the flesh. By this analysis we can know if we have received the gospel of Christ as taught by Paul or if we have been deceived by those who would teach a version of the gospel that is friendly to the flesh.



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Is Salvation By Faith Alone?

(Cont. from pg. 2) The passages listed clearly show the error of this idea. It does not rob God of His glory to suggest that He asks of those whom He will save full obedience to the system of faith contained in the gospel. This is clearly what scripture teaches and if we are to affirm the truth we can teach nothing less.

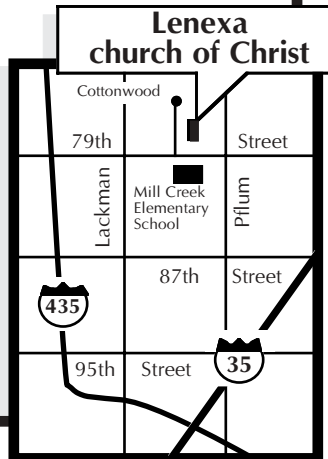


7845 Cottonwood
Lenexa, Kansas 66216
(913) 631-6519

Send a copy to a friend

- Elders: Jim Stauffer, Jim Tapp
Deacons: Kurt McLoud, Kyle Pope
Evangelists: Kyle Pope, Jim Stauffer

MEETING TIMES
Sunday - Bible Classes 9:30 AM
Worship Services 10:20 AM & 6:00
Wednesday - Bible Classes 7:00 PM



The Lenexa EDIFIER
...Let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another. - Romans 14:19

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Is Salvation By Faith Alone?

by Kyle Pope

Much of the religious world since the days of the Reformation upholds a religious doctrine which claims that salvation is by "faith alone". Is this doctrine what scripture teaches? A Bible concordance can show us how words are used in the Bible. If we look at words such as "save," "saved," "saves" and "salvation" we can test this doctrine to see it's soundness.

"SAVE"

What does the New Testament claim may "save" a person? -

- 1.) Jesus - Matthew 1:21
2.) Jesus coming into the world - I Timothy 1:15
3.) Coming to God through Jesus - Hebrews 7:5
4.) Belief - I Corinthians 1:21
5.) Fear - Jude 23
6.) Turning a sinner from the error of his way - James 5:20
7.) The implanted word - James 1:21
8.) The one Lawgiver - James 4:12

- 9.) A believing husband or wife - I Corinthians 7:16
10.) Loosing one's life - Mark 8:35, Luke 9:24

"SAVED"

In the New Testament, by what is a person said to have been "saved"? -

- 1.) Enduring to the end - Matthew 10:22, 24:12, Mark 13:13
2.) Belief and baptism - Mark 16:16
3.) Faith (or belief) - Luke 7:50 8:12, 18:42, Acts 16:31
4.) Jesus - Luke 3:17, Romans 5:9
5.) Jesus' words - John 5:34
6.) Entrance by Jesus - John 10:9
7.) Calling on the name of the Lord - Acts 2:21, Romans 10:13
8.) The name of Jesus - Acts 4:12
9.) Words - Acts 11:14
10.) The grace of Jesus - Acts 15:11
11.) Jesus' life - Romans 5:10
12.) Hope - Romans 8:24

- 13.) Belief and confession - Romans 10:9
- 14.) Holding fast the gospel - I Corinthians 15:1,2
- 15.) Grace - Ephesians 2:5
- 16.) Grace through faith - Ephesians 2:8
- 17.) Receiving the love of the truth - II Thessalonians 2:10
- 18.) Faith, love, holiness and self-control - I Timothy 2:15
- 19.) God's purpose and grace - II Timothy 1:9
- 20.) Mercy through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit - Titus 3:5

“SAVES”

What does the Bible claim “saves” a person? -

- 1.) Baptism through the resurrection of Jesus - I Peter 3:21

“SALVATION”

What are some things the Bible says about “Salvation”? -

- 1.) There is a “way of salvation” - Acts 16:17
- 2.) The gospel is “the power of God” to salvation for those who believe - Romans 1:16
- 3.) Confession is made “unto salvation” - Romans 10:10
- 4.) Repentance is “to salvation” - II Corinthians 7:10
- 5.) One must “work out” their own salvation - Philippians 2:12
- 6.) Salvation is “through” Jesus - I Thessalonians 5:9
- 7.) Salvation is “through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth” - II Thessalonians 2:13
- 8.) It is “in Christ Jesus” - II Timothy 2:10

- 9.) Wisdom “for salvation” is within the Holy Scriptures - II Timothy 3:15
 - 10.) Salvation is “to all who obey Him” - Hebrews 5:9
 - 11.) The longsuffering of the Lord leads to salvation - II Peter 3:15
 - 12.) Salvation will come to those kept by the power of God through faith - I Peter 1:5
- We see then that the Bible lists several things that are involved in Salvation. Thus it is not correct to claim that salvation is by “faith alone.”

How then are we to understand scriptures such as Ephesians 2:8,9? This passage tells us - **“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works lest anyone should boast”** (NKJV).

The means which God has offered mankind unto salvation is something for which man can take no credit at all! Since only Jesus' blood can cover man's sins there is nothing that we can do to merit our own forgiveness. Yet God has offered the atoning power of Christ's blood to man in what we might call a system of faith. Jude speaks of this in urging Christians to - “Contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints” (vs. 3). This system of faith is not limited simply to personal mental assent but involves all that Jesus taught both directly and through His apostles.

While we can say that a person is “saved by faith,” it is wrong to say that we can be “saved by faith alone.” **(Cont. on pg. 4)**

Are We Weak In The Flesh?

by Jim Stauffer

In Second Corinthians 13:5 Paul instructs the brethren in Corinth - **“Try your own selves, whether ye are in the faith; prove your own selves. Or know ye not as to your own selves, that Jesus Christ is in you? Unless indeed ye be reprobate”** (ASV). In this text, Paul is arguing for his own apostleship. Throughout the second epistle to the Corinthians, he has dealt with this problem. It appears there were men who even deceived the Corinthians in order to control them and lead them as they saw fit. He adopts a somewhat unusual approach in his reasoning. In Second Corinthians 13:3,4, he makes the point that the Corinthians are looking for the power of Christ in themselves as a result of Paul's teaching. Their difficulty in seeing that was their affinity with signs of strength in the fleshly realm. He then reasons that Christ and Paul were both weak in the flesh and strong in the spirit as a result of the power of God. They understood that Jesus was, in the eyes of the world, weak in the flesh. He was assaulted and crucified. He did not present the typical appearance of a king. The irony of the situation is that his power was in trusting God to deliver him from the death that came at the hands of his enemies. Paul then likens himself to Christ in that his failure to capitalize on fleshly power or achievement presents a “weak” appearance also.

It should be remembered that Jesus' reply to one who desired to follow him was “the Son of man hath not where to lay his head” (see Lk. 9:57,58). This was a lesson in sacrificing the flesh for the spirit. Yet, those who were clinging to fleshly ideals and principles would view this as weakness. They would desire to follow someone who was powerful and wealthy in fleshly matters.

Paul (who is being compared to false apostles (II Cor. 11:13) spends chapters 11,12 and 13 of Second Corinthians explaining why his appearance was judged as weak like that of Jesus. In II Cor. 11:16-33, he allows himself the folly of boasting. In that text he points out his unequalled heritage. He further details many of his personal sufferings in the flesh. These, of course were endured so he could bring the gospel of Jesus Christ to the Corinthians. That gospel, when obeyed, would enable them to live their lives guided and directed by Christ (see II Cor. 13:5, Gal. 2:20). And when they looked inwardly and saw Christ in themselves they would then understand they had learned this from Paul who had preached the crucified **(Cont. on pg. 4)**



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