

Rom. 14:19
So then let us
follow after
things which
make for
peace, and
things
whereby we
may edify one
another.

John 8:32 And
ye shall
know the
truth and the
truth shall
make you
free.

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Is the Inheritance Our Goal?

Jim Stauffer

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”

(1 Peter 1:3–5)

These words are written to a select group of people. No attempt to be arrogant or selfish in that statement, but listen to how he modifies the recipients of this inheritance to be revealed in the last time.

The first thing he says about these people is they have received the mercy of the Lord and have responded by being born again. Jesus told Nicodemus he must be *born of the water and the Spirit...* in order to enter the kingdom of God (**John 3:5**). Listen to how the apostle Peter describes that birth, *“Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart, for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God.”* (**1 Peter 1:22–23**)

The word of God explains to us the process of this new birth as Jesus taught Nicodemus. But this is not all he says must be the case for us to qualify for this inheritance. Being born again gives us *....a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead...* Paul explains how this will work when he tells the Corinthians Christ is the first fruits of the grave and we then will follow at His coming (**1 Cor. 15:23**). Remember, those who will follow have been born again of the water and the Spirit.

This inheritance goes to those *...who are protected*

by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. Paul describes that power of God in **Ephesians 1:20-23** when he refers to the time God raised Christ from the grave and then elevated Him to sit at God’s right hand in heaven. He tells us Jesus then rules over all authority in this age or the one to come. Be clear, that is the power, the authority that will grant salvation, thus the inheritance to all those who obey Him (**Heb. 5:8,9**). It must then be understood that those of faith who God protects by His power are the same ones who obey Christ, the author of salvation.

There is a very obvious point to be made here and that is the One Who has the power to grant the inheritance is the One Who demands we love and obey Him (**John 14:15**). If we wish to receive that reward, we must *give heed* (**Acts 3:22**).

This sounds simple enough and it is, but men have complicated this by adding their own ideas to the worship and service of the Lord. Jesus spoke of such when He said, *“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. ‘Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’ ‘And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.’”* (**Matthew 7:21–23**) Please do not miss the point He is making. These are men who consider themselves religious, but have added to or taken away from what the Lord has commanded. They are practicing *lawlessness* which is acting without direction, law or authority. John warned brethren about this late in the first century, *“Anyone who goes too far*

and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house, and do not give him a greeting; for the one who gives him a greeting participates in his evil deeds.” (2 John 1:9–11)

Remember the instruction of the apostle Paul and we will have no difficulty following the doctrine of Christ. *“Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.” (Colossians 3:17)* Serving in His name simply means by His authority.

May we all sincerely seek to do His will not ours.

Does Baptism Save You?

Cleveland Reddinger

In April we had a Gospel Meeting where one of the lessons bore the title “Baptism Doth Also Now Save Us”, which, as astute Bible students know, is a direct quote from **1 Peter 3:21** in the King James: *“The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ”*. There were questions in my inbox from readers concerning why we would have such a sermon since it is obvious that just getting wet can’t possibly be all that there is to salvation, with which I wholeheartedly agree!

See, the waters of religious discussion have been so muddied up by those who, whether intentionally or unwittingly, insert the word “alone” into scripture where they have no reason to insert the word. We have no right to do that! After all, was it not Satan who, in the Garden of Eden itself, inserted merely one word into the command of God and thus deceived Eve into eating the forbidden fruit: *“And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die.” (Genesis 3:4)* God said in **Genesis 2:17**, *“thou shalt surely die.”* Satan changed the ENTIRE meaning of the command by inserting that one word. We need to leave God’s word unchanged and allow it to say what it says and live by it.

Also, inserting the word “alone” into scripture means that the characteristic thus described is BOTH NECESSARY AND SUFFICIENT to bring about the desired end, in this case, salvation. It would be like saying, “Gasoline makes a car run.” Well, that’s true! However, “Gasoline alone makes a car run.” is patently false! You also need oil in the crankcase, electrical charge in the battery and a host of other things. Is

gasoline NECESSARY? Yes, but it is not both NECESSARY AND SUFFICIENT, which is what the word “alone” would imply. Hope this helps!

What must I do to be saved?

“Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” (Acts 16:30).

How convenient and clear to find this particular question asked and answered in the Bible! It is found in the story of one event in Philippi on Paul's second preaching trip. Read **Acts 16:11-40** to get the whole story. This beautiful story of conversion deserves to be read carefully.

What is the answer to this question asked by a jailor? Note carefully the full answer in the story: *“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved. you and your household.”* That is how people are saved. Faith is the fundamental condition of salvation in Jesus Christ.

Too many people stop at this statement and conclude that this mental acceptance of Christ is the whole story. NO! The story continues: *“Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house” (Acts 16:32)*. Salvation by faith means one must hear and be taught the word of God. What was the result of the teaching? *“And he (jailor) took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes” (Acts 16:33)*. The gospel converted the punishing jailor into a kind, healing man. The change of ways is repentance - to stop sin and do right. That is what true believers do. That is what they must do.

“And immediately he and all his family were baptized” (Acts 16:33). Can we leave this fact out of the salvation plan of faith? It cannot be pushed aside as unnecessary because of the next statement: *“Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household” (Acts 16:34)*

This salvation story begins and ends by declaring salvation by faith. Saving faith changes a person. It humbles and moves people to respond to God in faith. See the harmony of these principles in God's plan. Do not make the mistake of turning repentance and obedience (baptism) into an enemy of or competitor with faith. This man did all those things *“having believed.”*

Let me know if you would like to study this subject some more.

Don Bunting

Where Are You

Genesis 3:9--*Then the Lord called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?"*

Genesis, Chapter 2, we learn that God planted a garden in Eden as the place Adam and Eve would call home. They could eat freely of every tree of the garden except one, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Now when we come to **Chapter 3**, it all takes a turn for the worse; Adam and Eve have eaten fruit from the forbidden tree. In the cool of the evening God walks in the garden and calls out to the man, *"Where are you?"*

The first man in the world has sinned and conscious of his guilt was trying to hide from God (**Gen. 3:1-10**). I have often wondered why Adam thought he could hide from God. I don't know the answer to that but I do know that every effort on the part of any man or woman to hide from God is nothing more than puny self-deception (**Gal. 6:7**).

Think for a moment about **Proverbs 15:3**, *"The eyes of the Lord are in every place watching the good and the evil"*. The writer of Hebrews tells us, *"And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do."*

God knew what Adam had done, where he was and what he was attempting to do. There is no doubting that at this point Adam felt a sense of guilt and realized the futility of trying to hide from or evade God. Adam had to face God and give an account for what he had done. What a tremendous lesson for you and I to take to heart (**Romans 14:12; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Acts 17:30-31**).

This is a time of self examination for each one of us. Where does God stand in your life (**Mark 12:30**)? Where does Jesus stand in your life (**Philippians 1:21; Galatians 2:20**)? Where does the kingdom of God stand in your life (**Matthew 6:33**)? Are you standing fast in the faith, fighting the good fight (**1 Corinthians 16:13; 1 Timothy 6:12**)? Are you adding to your faith those things that will make your calling and election sure (**2 Peter 1:5-11**)? Are you truly an example of the believer in Christ (**1 Timothy 4:12**)?

I submit to you that each of us knows the answer to all these questions. Based on our answers, if our life was to end right now, where would we stand with God. If we are ready, then Lord haste the day when all will be made known but if in our heart we know we are not ready, then we had best be doing something about it quickly (**Hebrews 9:27**).

Where are you? One of the great questions found in God's word.

Charles Hicks; swabbie5256@gmail.com

"DON'T FIND FAULT"

Pray, don't find fault with the man who limps,
Or stumbles along the road,
Until you have worn the shoes he wears,
Or struggled beneath his load.

There may be tacks in his shoes that hurt,
Though hidden away from view,
Or the burden he bears, placed on your back,
Might cause you to stumble, too.

Don't sneer at the man who's down today,
Unless you have felt the blow,
That caused this fall, or felt the shame,
That only the fallen know.

You might be stronger, but, still the blows,
That were his, if dealt to you,
In the selfsame way, at the selfsame time,
Might cause you to stagger, too.

Don't be too harsh with the man who sins,
Or pelt him with words or stones,
Unless you are sure, yes, doubly sure,
That you have not sins of your own.

For you know perhaps, if the tempter's voice,
Should whisper as soft to you,
As it did to him when he went astray,
T'would cause you to falter, too.

--- *Author Unknown*

We offer either in home studies in person or by way of Correspondence Courses.

Call me, Jim Stauffer at 913-620-0563, Evangelist at the Lenexa church of Christ

We believe in worshiping and serving the Lord as He has instructed in His word.

Things people believe about biblical subjects but are not so!

Did you know the Bible teaches us there will be no warning signs before the second coming of the Lord? 2 Peter 3:9,10.

Please call us to study the Bible. It is refreshing.

Psa. 1:1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the wicked, Nor standeth in the way of sinners, Nor sitteth in the seat of scoffers: 2 But his delight is in the law of Jehovah; And on his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the streams of water, That bringeth forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also doth not wither; And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. 4 The wicked are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. 5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. 6 For Jehovah knoweth the way of the righteous; But the way of the wicked shall perish.

HOURS OF WORSHIP

Sunday A.M. 9:30 Bible Study

Sunday A.M. 10:20 Assembled Worship

Sunday P.M. 5:00 Assembled Worship

Wednesday P.M. 7:00 Bible Study and Worship

Visitors welcome

We conduct in home Bible Studies

We offer Correspondence Courses

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Elders: Ron Peck and Jim Stauffer

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Jim Stauffer

Wednesday Evening - 1&2
Peter and Jude - Ron Peck

Sunday Sermon: My Desire
vs. My Will
(Choosing the good part)



What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear the gospel - Romans 10:17

Believe in Jesus Christ - Hebrews 11:6

Repent of sins - Acts 17:30

Confess Christ as Lord - Romans 10:9,10

Be Baptized for remission of sins - Acts 2:38

Be Faithful unto death - Revelation 2:10