

# LENEXA EDIFIER

“and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” (John 8:32)

November 12, 2023

## Once Saved Always Saved vs. Salvation by Faith

The basis of each:

Once saved always saved is based on the principle that God gave you faith by direct operation of the Holy Spirit and therefore you cannot abandon it. This position claims further that nothing beyond believing in God is involved in faith. There is no obedience to commands that follows one's faith.

Salvation by faith is a biblical teaching that is based on your conviction concerning the Christ Who came to save you and your loyalty to Him in search of the inheritance for the faithful. This faith simply means you will obey the One in Whom you believe.

Both doctrines are based on the concept that the faithful will inherit heaven at the end of life on the earth.

The discussion then is what does the Bible say about how faith is obtained and who holds that faith.

First of all the Bible teaches us it is impossible to be pleasing to God without faith, **Hebrews 11:6**. It also teaches us faith comes from hearing the word of God, **Romans 10:17**. The hearing mentioned in this verse is an expression of not only the physical hearing of the word, but the understanding. This concept is expressed more clearly as Jesus teaches the parable of the sower. There were 4 types of soil and each physically heard the word. One never heeded it at all while two others heard it and began to heed it but eventually the heat killed one plant because the rocky soil (the condition of the heart) did not allow it to take root. Another began also but allowed the word to be choked out by the cares of the world. These are illustrations of those who hear and understand the word, believe it and accept it but are unable to sustain their faith. Their faith came from hearing and understanding the word and realizing it demanded obedience. Their faith was weakened by their inability to continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord and they left the faith instead of contending for it. They were no longer saved.

Having established faith comes from hearing the word of the Lord, we now learn it demands obedience. Jesus is described by the writer of Hebrews as the author of eternal salvation. He grants that salvation to

those who obey Him (**Hebrews 5:8,9**). The doctrinal specific that faith leads to obedience is set forth with abundant examples. *By faith Noah, being warned by God about things not yet seen, in reverence prepared an ark for the salvation of his household..... (Hebrews 11:7). By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going. (Hebrews 11:8)* Abraham is the father of the faithful according to **Galatians 3:26-29**. Finally, let us notice how Abraham's faith is defined by his obedience to the commandment of God when he was willing to offer Isaac as a sacrifice to God (**James 2:20-26**).

In conclusion we have learned our faith comes by hearing, understanding and obeying the word of the Lord. If and when one decides not to continue his obedience to the Lord, he has abandoned his faith and has fallen from grace (**Galatians 5:4**) and his faith is dead.

*Jim Stauffer*

## Arguments for Believing in God by Wayne Goff

Some scientists would have you believe that there is absolutely no way to know if there is a God. Since they cannot quantify God in the laboratory, they would have us refuse to believe in God.

I believe one can know there is a God from nature. It is the logical concept of cause & effect. The “effect” is the ordered universe and the “cause” is the One Who ordered it (God). **Romans 1:20** makes this argument when it says:

*“For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse.”*

Therefore, it is more logical to believe that an all powerful Being created the ordered universe than to believe that the universe is the result of chaos and

disorder. Each one of us gets to make this decision for himself and our eternal destiny rests upon it!

But to say that if one believes in a Creator then he holds to a blind faith is untrue. There are additional logical arguments that would lead an intelligent person to come to the conclusion that there is a Creator.

### **The Life Argument**

Life comes from life. Life does not come from non-life. It is both unscientific and preposterous to believe otherwise. No scientist has proven the life from nonlife aspect of the evolutionary theory. We are asked to accept it blindly. In 1668, Francesco Redi, an Italian physician, proved that fruit flies do not spontaneously generate. Prior to that experiment many believed in such. Now who has blind faith?

### **The Moral Argument**

Where do we get our standards of right and wrong? The Bible is my answer, which came from God. Today many people vehemently reject the Bible as a Divine Product, but they cannot explain man's acceptance of right/wrong standards. One atheist explained to me that we get our moral standard today from the present culture of our society. In other words, the majority of people decide what is right and wrong. But that doesn't explain from where the concepts of right, wrong and justice came, now does it?

### **The Entropy Argument**

The universe is going from a better state to a worse state. The universe is not winding up, but winding down. Any teenager can tell you that after experimenting with his/her own room! Therefore, if the universe is winding down, then eventually it will come to an end. If you follow the logic backwards, then the universe also had a beginning. If it had a beginning, then it must have had a Beginner (God). This is both logical and proven by all that man knows. The first and second laws of Thermodynamics confirm these truths. Matter can neither be created nor destroyed. It can only be changed. And matter is going from a better state to a worse state at a constant rate. There will be an end to the universe we live in. Scientists try to soften this truth by saying that the universe has been here billions of years, but in fact, they have no proof of that at all.

### **Conclusion**

The logical conclusion is that there is a God. The Bible affirms the same! Those who do not wish to have God

as their Lord and Master will do everything to avoid that reality. But all the lies, deceptions, mistruths, halftruths, and so on will never change the fact that there is a God, or the fact that He created both us and the universe in which we live.

Dear reader, Judgment Day is coming. The Bible affirms that God will judge the world in righteousness through Jesus Christ, Whom He sent into the world to save the world, **Acts 17:30-31; John 3:16-17**. When Jesus returns again, it will be to judge the world once and for all.

## **"THE WORK OF THE CHURCH" #2**

Churches in the New Testament fulfilled their mission of preaching the gospel within the framework of the local church. In only thirty years from the giving of the Great Commission Paul was able to say: *"If so be that ye continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel which ye heard, which was preached in all creation under heaven; whereof I Paul was made a minister"* (**Colossians 1:23; Mark. 16:15-16**). New Testament Christians taught the word of God and supported evangelists in their work (**Acts 8:4; 2 Timothy 2:2; 1 Corinthians 9:1-18; Philippians 4:14-16**). In special emergencies we find that a church (es) helped other churches. Prompted by the famine in the land the disciples in Antioch sent aid to their brethren in Judaea. They chose their own messengers and sent relief to the elders of the churches in Judaea (**Acts 11:27-30**). The text does not say that the elders in Jerusalem became the overseeing board for the disbursing of these funds! Churches in Macedonia and Achaia followed the same pattern as they collected funds, chose their own messengers, and sent relief to the poor saints in Jerusalem (**Romans 15:25-28; 1 Corinthians 16:1-4; 2 Corinthians 8-9**). These churches worked concurrently; they did the same work at the same time but independently of each other. The need was real, but it was also temporary. The church in Jerusalem did not receive the funds for further promotions of some brotherhood project; no church received and sent at the same time. Churches cooperated in evangelism. Again, concurrent cooperation takes place as each local church according to its ability sends directly to the preacher in the field (**Philippians 1:3-5; 4:14-16; 2 Cor. 11:8**).

No one denies the need to do more in spreading the gospel; evangelism is an integral part of the mission of God (**1 Timothy 3:15**). The building up of the members must not be overlooked (**Ephesians 4:16**). The physical needs of the members must be and should be met as the situation calls for such action (**Acts 6:1-7**). The monstrosity of Roman Catholicism grew out of a perversion of the simple organization of the local congregation. Paul warned about the possibility of this kind of corruption in **Acts 20:28-32**. Brotherhood works create a big church-small church mentality as the work of the elders is expanded beyond the flock "*among you*." The arrangement of local churches doing their own work under the oversight of elders is a guard against such apostasy. Where do elders have authority to oversee the work of any other flock, other than the flock among them?

**Randy Harshbarger**

**Editor's Note:**

**Wednesday evening, Ron Peck presented an invitation based on this article. The value makes it worth sharing with those who were not there.**

**One Last Verse**

**Matt Bassford**

Throughout my life, there was a series of verses that I identified as "my verse". These were verses that in some way exemplified me or what I needed to become. I kept **2 Timothy 2:24-25** on my bathroom mirror for years because I needed the reminder. Later, I took great encouragement from the promise of **Matthew 5:6**.

Now that my life is over, one last verse has become mine, though really it is not my verse but yours. It is **Hebrews 13:7**. My work under the sun has ceased. I no longer speak the word of God to you or anyone else.

However, the Hebrews writer, himself long since departed, imposes three obligations on you. The first is to remember. This is not a matter of sentimentality. Rather, just as there were important spiritual lessons in the word I spoke, so too there are important spiritual lessons in the word I lived.

Do not forget them! Otherwise, you will be like the forgetful hearer of **James 1:23-24**. If you do not carry the memory of my life within you, you will gain no lasting benefit from having known me.

Second, you must carefully observe my conduct. You must carefully consider it. In this, you must use discernment, just as you use discernment in evaluating any of the flawed heroes of faith in Scripture. At times, you have seen me behave foolishly and even wickedly. My failings certainly are not worthy of imitation!

Despite these stumbles, though, you know that I was a man who walked by faith. Now that my course is finished, consider the outcome of that walk. My path was not always easy. I battled chronic depression throughout the time that you knew me, and my last year at Jackson Heights was dominated by a devastating terminal diagnosis.

Ask yourselves, then, if it mattered to me that I lived by faith. What would my life have been like if I had been an atheist to whom these things happened? For that matter, what would have become of me if I had been a weak, uncommitted Christian?

You know the answer. Indeed, many of you have known the answer since you were small children. Those who wisely build on the rock can withstand the flood, but those who build on sand are swept away.

I was not swept away. ALS invariably destroys unbelievers, but I was not destroyed. Rather, my faith grew stronger throughout my trials, and I've finished my race with joy and hope. The presence of God in my life made all the difference.

Finally, the Hebrews writer urges you to imitate my faith. Don't imitate my imperfections; imitate my loyalty to Christ. It is nearly certain that at some point in your life you will face trials that are beyond your strength too. It is absolutely certain that your life will end as mine has. The flood is coming for you too, and only the Lord can keep you safe. Build on Him, and you will never regret it.

I believe that the spirits of the departed remain aware of earthly events. That is why we are encouraged to run our race before a great cloud of witnesses. If so, then right now I am cheering for every one of you! Run with endurance. Lay hold of the prize. When you cross the finish line, my beloved, I'll be waiting to welcome you in.

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**

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#### **NEWS AND NOTES:**

**PLEASE REMEMBER:** ALMA BAUMGARTNER, DENESE GORING, BROOKLYN BOYER, TRACY RICHARDSON, WAYNE MOODY, BOB OWEN, DAVID AND JOANNE BECKLEY, MARK WALKER, PAT MCLLOUD, ELLIE GOLDSTON, WINNIE RAWSON, STEVE WIMP AND DALE RICHARDSON.

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SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS:

**FELLOWSHIP - BILL MILLER**

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS:

**MINOR PROPHETS - JIM STAUFFER**

SUNDAY SERMON: **OUR NEED - GOD'S DEMAND - AUTHORITY**

## 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**