

# ARE WE SAVED BY FAITH ALONE?

## I. INTRODUCTION:

### A. *John 3:16*

1. A beautiful passage!

a) **Familiar to most.**

b) **In fact, about all many people know or can quote about the Scripture.**

2. “Just believe and you will be saved!”

a) **Most denomination’s the same:**

*(1) “Wherefore, that we are justified by faith only is a most wholesome doctrine, and very full of comfort.”<sup>1</sup>*

*(2) It may be “comforting,” **but is it true?***

3. Let us see what Scripture says.

## II. WE ARE SAVED BY MANY THINGS:

### A. GRACE.

1. Acts 15:11

2. Romans 3:24

a) **Therefore, saved by GRACE!**

### B. LOVE.

1. Ephesians 2:4-5

2. God gave His only begotten Son, Why? Because he loved us! Cf. John 3:16

a) **Therefore, saved by Love!**

### C. BLOOD.

---

<sup>1</sup> Philadelphia Confession of Faith

1. Romans 5:9
2. Hebrews 13:12

**a) Therefore, saved by blood!**

***D. THEREFORE, OBVIOUSLY NOT SAVED BY FAITH ALONE!***

1. Most “faith alone” believers would agree with these.
2. But, they say, “faith is all that man does!”

**a) What do the Scriptures say man must do?**

(1) What is required for salvation?

**III. SAVED BY FAITH.**

***A. Plainly taught in the Scriptures:***

1. Ephesians 2:8
2. Hebrews 11:6
3. Acts 16:31

***B. Do we stop with that and ignore all other information and instruction?***

1. “Yes!” they say, “Faith rules out works!”

**a) Ephesians 2:8-9**

2. But, if no works of any kind, there is a problem:

**a) John 6:28-29**

3. No contradiction!

**a) Works in Ephesians 2:9 are the same as the works in Romans 3:25-29.**

(1) Romans 3:25-29

4. Is it possible to be “saved by faith” but not by “faith alone”?

**a) Illustration of drowning man, or man in burning house.**

b) Faith in the New Testament is frequently coupled with other things!

#### IV. FAITH PLUS (+) REPENTANCE.

##### A. Acts 20:17-21

1. Paul didn't preach "faith alone."
2. **Repentance** was part of preaching everything "that was profitable/helpful," verse 20.

##### B. What is repentance?

1. 2 Corinthians 7:10

###### a) Sorrow->Repentance-> Salvation

2. Another factor:

###### a) Matthew 21:28-32

(1) Therefore, repentance = sorrow + change!

##### C. Repentance is necessary!

1. Luke 13:3

#### V. FAITH PLUS (+) CONFESSION:

##### A. Confession coupled with faith.

1. Romans 10:8-11
2. Verse 10 – "confession is made unto salvation"
3. Verbal confession: "with the mouth"

##### B. Some say, "confession is a part of faith" – is it?

1. No!

###### a) John 12:42-43

**C. Excuses:**

1. Faith required; “What if there is no preacher?”
2. Confession; (story: mute girl pointing to scriptures).
3. God provides a way!
4. Many should quit looking for a way out of obedience.

**D. Confession is necessary!**

1. Matthew 10:32-33

VI. **FAITH PLUS (+) BAPTISM.**

**A. Baptism coupled with faith:**

1. Mark 16:15-16

**a) Example: “He who believes and comes to the White House will receive \$10,000. He who believes and is baptized shall receive \$10,000. ANY QUESTIONS?”**

2. Galatians 3:26-27

**B. What is baptism?**

1. Many opinions: sprinkling, pouring, etc.
2. Greek: “baptisma”

**a) J.H. Thayer: “immersion, submersion”**

**b) Arndt & Gingrich: “to dip, to immerse”**

**c) W.E. Vine: “the processes of immersion, submersion and emergence”**

**d) NONE: “sprinkling, pouring”**

3. The Scripture makes it plain.

**a) Colossians 2:12**

(1) Immersion is the only burial-baptism.

(2) Can one bury a horse by sprinkling?

**C. *Baptism saves you!***

1. Colossians 2:13 (NKJV) (result of verse 12 –above)
2. 1 Peter 3:21

**a) Like Noah’s salvation by water.**

- (1) Would anyone claim that Noah was saved by “water alone” or by “ark alone”?
- (2) Cf. Hebrews 11:7

**VII. FAITH PLUS (+) A FAITFUL LIFE.**

**A. *Hebrews 10:38***

***B. Do you claim you do not believe “Once saved, always saved!”? Do you holler and deny it?***

1. But do you live as though it is true? Do you live as though a faithful life is not necessary?

**a) Survey entitled “Where Do You Fit In?”<sup>2</sup> This national survey of churches in the United States revealed the following about church members:**

- (1) 20% never attend a service.
- (2) 25% admit they never pray.
- (3) 35% admit they never read God’s Word.
- (4) 40% never contribute to the church.
- (5) 60% never read or study the Bible lesson.
- (6) 70% never attend the Sunday evening service and or special meetings.
- (7) 95% never win a soul to Christ.
- (8) 100% expect to go to heaven!

---

<sup>2</sup> Pulpit Helps, July 1982, page 12

**b) This is true of us when...**

- (1) ... Unconcerned about sin.
- (2) ...Unconcerned about spiritual growth.
- (3) ...Unconcerned about worship, etc.

**C. Revelation 2:10**

VIII. **CONCLUSION:**

**A. If all other points in this lesson are insufficient, consider...**

1. James 2:14
2. James 2:20
3. James 2:24
4. James 2:26

**B. Faith + Repentance + Confession + Baptism + Faithful life!**

**C. These are God's terms!**

1. No bargains.
2. No shortcuts.
3. A simple, plain offer.

**D. Will you accept His salvation – on His terms? Now?**