

Faith, Yes, But Not By Faith Alone

by Bill Crews

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man cannot be justified by any works of merit or by his own righteousness (**Titus 3:5; Ephesians 2:8-9**) is not to say that man is justified by faith alone. *“For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision; but faith working through love”* (**Galatians 5:6**) *“You see that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only”* (**James 2:24**).

Thieves Break In And Steal!

by Wayne Goff

Jesus taught us to lay up eternal treasures in heaven because they cannot be taken away by crooks and thieves! *“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal”* (**Matthew 6:19-20**). While He is not forbidding absolutely saving things, Jesus is warning us that material things can and will be taken away from us, sooner or later, one way or another. So you and I had better have a more enduring substance – eternal life – laid up for us in heaven.

This past week, our neighborhood had thieves go throughout the subdivision and break into any cars or trucks that might be parked outside. Many of the vehicles were locked, but these thieves have figured out how to open locked doors, rummage through your valuables, and leave quickly.

My cars were opened and the thieves went through the glove boxes, looking for anything valuable that they can quickly sell or take for money. At this writing, I’m not sure if anything of value was taken. If it was, I have yet to discover it. You can have locks, car alarms, house alarms, etc., and still some crook will figure out a way around it.

Cyber criminals are world-wide now and are able to steal millions of dollars from their victims. Governments are apparently behind in the technology to catch up to these criminals and destroy their deceitful plans, but in time the government will catch up to them.

So is there anything that cannot be taken away from us? *“...Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven”* Jesus said. Thieves cannot get that! But you see precious few people these days going to church, studying their Bibles, or supporting gospel meetings and VBS efforts – because they cannot “see” those heavenly treasures! Their faith is weak or lacking completely.

“Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share,” (**1 Timothy 6:17-18**).

God has taken good care of me and my family down through the years, and I am eternally grateful for it. God’s providential care and promise of eternal life are well-worth the seeking. Dear friend, I hope and pray that you will turn to God in faithful obedience and trust your eternal soul’s well-being to Him who is able to keep your possessions safe from harm.

“Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God” (**1 Corinthians 6:9-10**). Dear reader, if you or someone you know has been a “thief,” then encourage them to repent of it, obey the gospel, and be forgiven so that this will not appear on their record in the eternal Judgment Day.

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