



Today's Sermons
 Morning: Saved By Faith
 Evening: TBA

Visit Us At:
www.wjchurchofchrist.org
 For Audio Lessons,
 Past Bulletins, Bible Studies
 & More
 Wireless Internet Password: 94615548

FOR THE RECORD

Sunday Bible Study	23
Sunday AM Worship	43
Sunday PM Worship	18
Wed. Bible Study	22
Offering	\$2209

How Are We Saved?
The Bible Answer

Provision Made:

- **Blood of Christ** - Col.1:20; 1Pet.1:18ff
- **Shed for all** - Heb.2:9; Rom.6:10
- **Message given** - Titus 2:11-14; 1Pet.1:22ff

Response Necessary by Us:

- **Hear the gospel** - John 6:44-45; Mk.16:15
- **Believe it** - Mk.16:16; John 3:16
- **Repent of sins** - Lk.13:3; Acts 2:38
- **Confess faith** - Rom.10:10
- **Be baptized** - Acts 22:16; Rom.6:3-7

God Has Done His Part - Have You Done Yours??



A Weekly Publication of the
West Jefferson Church of Christ
 130 Robert Street
 West Jefferson NC 28694
 Phone: (336) 846-5615 | Email: info@wjchurchofchrist.org
 Volume IX June 12, 2016 Number 24

Minister:
Tim Canup
tim@wjchurchofchrist.org

Times of Services:

Sunday
 Bible Study:... 10:00am
 AM Worship...11:00am
 PM Worship:...6:00pm
 2nd Sunday:.....1:30pm

Wednesday
 Bible Study:.....7:00pm

Radio Program
 Sunday:.....7:30am
 "Back to the Bible"
 AM 580 WSKS
 93.5 FM

**We Extend A
 Warm & Cordial
 Welcome
 To All Our
 Visitors!**

Where Does Repentance Fit In?
 by Tim Canup

Jesus said, "I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." Paul said, "And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent" (Acts 17:30). Repentance is a change of heart that leads to a change of life (II Corinthians 7:10). It is obvious that God has commanded repentance, but I want you to consider, "Where does repentance fit into God's plan?" Some teach that a person is saved at the very moment of their faith without any further acts of obedience (which is contrary to the Bible, James 2:17, 24). In this scenario of salvation, does repentance come before faith or after?

If one says it comes before, then what about Acts 2:38, where Peter commanded, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins..." Many suggest "for" in this verse means "because of." However, if this is true, then Peter taught they were to repent "because sins had been forgiven," which has repentance coming after faith and salvation, thus this doctrine contradicts the Bible, therefore cannot be truth.

Continued Inside

However, if one places repentance after salvation, then what about Luke 13:3 where our Lord said if a person did not repent, they would perish (or be lost), and Luke 24:47 where Jesus put repentance before remission of sins (or salvation)? According to the doctrine of salvation by faith only and in light of Jesus statements, the implication of placing repentance after salvation is that a person is saved at the very moment of faith and then again when they repent. It also implies a Christian can fall from grace, which many deny, but consider Gal. 5:4. Therefore, this teaching also contradicts the Bible, which means it cannot be true.

What if repentance is placed between faith and salvation? By doing so denies the teaching that one is saved by faith only; it means that there is at least one other condition given in order to be saved. This fits with Peter's instructions in Acts 2:38, as well as Jesus' command in Luke 13:3 and 24:47 and every other passage in the New Testament. Faith is what moves a person to obey the commands God has given. Hebrews 11 is filled with examples of those who by their faith obeyed the commands God gave to them and then after they had obeyed, received the promised blessing. If one admits that one command comes between faith and salvation, then the possibility of others being required is certainly there.

So does God require anything else in connection to salvation? Jesus commanded that we are to confess Him as the Christ before others (Matthew 10:32-33). He also commanded, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved..." (Mark 16:16). Interestingly, it is at this point the Bible says a person enters into Christ (Romans 6:34; Galatians 3:27), where salvation is (II Timothy 2:10). Jesus shed His blood in His death (John 19:34) and we are baptized into His death (Romans 6:3-4), thus when we are baptized (and not a moment before), we contact the precious blood of Christ that takes away sin (Revelation 1:5).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- June 12 – Preach & Eat – 1:30 service
- June 19 – Evening Song Service
- July 17-22 – Old-Fashioned Gospel Tent Meeting @ Greenfields w/ John Brown
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell

Are we saved by faith? There are numerous passages in the New Testament that connect our salvation to faith. The Bible says, "...faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1) and "...faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17). Biblical faith is not a blind leap in the dark; rather, it is based on the evidence of the New Testament (John 30:20-21). According to John 8:24 and Hebrews 11:6, faith is absolutely necessary to salvation! However, the question that needs to be considered is, "Are we saved by our faith alone?"

The Bible does not contradict itself! If our interpretation of two passages is in contradiction with one another, then our interpretation of one or both passages must be wrong! For example, some suggest we are saved by faith alone according to Romans 5:1 where Paul said we are "justified by faith." However, in James 2:24, we read "...that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only." Are we justified by faith? Yes! However, it is not by faith alone.

The word "faith" is used in the New Testament to describe the Gospel system of faith (the body of evidence that contains facts to be believed; commands to be obeyed; promises to be enjoyed), such as Acts 6:7; Romans 1:5; Jude 3, and others. It is also used to describe our personal faith and often is used either figuratively to describe a part for the whole, or simply as the beginning point of our journey to salvation. Again, NOT one passages in the entire New Testament suggests salvation is by faith ALONE.

How about Abraham? Was He not justified by faith alone? Paul said in Romans 4:3-4, "For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath *whereof* to glory; but not before God. For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness." Abraham was justified by his faith, however, consider what James said in 2:21-22, "Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?" Both James and Paul mention works; however, they were considering two different types of works. Paul discussed works of merit (to earn salvation), while James was considering works of obedience.

Faith is what moves us to obey. The Bible teaches that when by our faith, we obey the commands God has given, then and only then, are we the recipient of the blessing promised by God (in our case, salvation). Hebrews 10:35-36, "Cast not away therefore your confidence {that is, faith-TAC}, which hath great recompense of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, AFTER ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise." Hebrews 11:30 is just one of many examples of this: "By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, AFTER they were compassed about seven days."

It is by our faith that that we are to obey the commands Jesus has given, such as to repent of our sins (Luke 13:3), confess Him as the Christ before others (Matthew 10:32-33), and to be baptized (in order to be saved – Mark 16:16).