

... FAITH'S ROLE IN SALVATION?

Everyone has faith of some sort. What role has God determined that faith will play in our salvation from sin?

Though faith *alone* is dead, faith is an essential part of God's plan for your salvation--*without faith it is impossible to please Him* (James 2:20; Hebrews 11:6).

Do not mistake "faith" with "blind faith." True faith is built upon undeniable evidence. The existence of God is KNOWN by the things that are made (Rom. 1:20). Seeing what He has done convinces us that God exists even though we have never seen Him. The Bible is also proof that God exists because of the fulfilled prophecies contained therein (Mic. 5:2; Mt. 2:5-6).

With this faith, the teachings of God are useful to us (for if we do not accept them they will do us no good). Faith "drives" us to seek and serve God.

When a study of God's word convinces you that Jesus is the Christ, God's Son (John 20:30-31)—this faith is a significant step towards your salvation. It causes you to be confident that He will keep His promises of punishing the disobedient, forgiving the obedient, and rewarding the faithful (2 Thessalonians 1:8-9; Hebrews 5:9; Revelation 2:10). Do you believe? If you do, don't stop there. The knowledge of and confidence in God which is present by faith opens your eyes to the problem of your sins. You cannot escape that problem by faith alone. Keep reading---

Theme: *Do You Know...*

- **Faith's Role in Salvation?**
 - **Repentance's Role in Salvation?**
 - **Confession's Role in Salvation?**
 - **Immersion's Role in Salvation?**

Author & Editor: David Halbrook

... REPENTANCE'S ROLE IN SALVATION?

No one is saved before they repent. Repentance is more than sadness; it is a change of mind (2 Corinthians 7:9). When you believe that Jesus is God, you will quickly learn that you have disobeyed Him. In Acts 2, sinners were told to repent if they desired the remission of sins (Acts 2:38). The willingness to leave sin is often a difficult step, but it is an essential step in receiving God's offer of salvation. One man who was taught of his need to repent, was afraid of being punished but still refused to repent (Acts 24:25).

Beware of those who say "faith is repentance." Faith is accepting what is true. Repentance is turning from sin. In Acts 8:18-19, a man named Simon (who previously believed and was baptized, verse 13) returned to his old sinful ways. Peter did not tell him to "have faith" (he already did!) but to repent of his wickedness (v22). You cannot "have faith of your wickedness," but you can repent of your wickedness.

Will you change your life? If so, you understand repentance, but you are still lost. Keep reading--

... CONFESSION'S ROLE IN SALVATION?

Faith and repentance are important, but without verbally confessing our faith in Christ, we remain lost in sin--

...that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation (Romans 10:9-10). This text teaches—

1. Sinners must confess that Jesus is Lord. Paul makes it clear that “confession” in this verse means speaking your conviction concerning Jesus as Lord and Christ. This confession is not “listing your sins.”

2. Salvation is not by faith alone. You cannot believe that “salvation is by faith alone” and accept Romans 10:9-10. Believing in Jesus without confessing Him leaves us lost.

3. Man must work to be saved. Though it is simple, confession is work. Speaking requires thought, conviction, and even physical energy. Does the work of confession earn salvation? Of course not, but you cannot be saved without confessing your conviction of the Christ.

4. Confession is essential to salvation. Read Acts 8:37 and Matthew 16:16 to learn more about this confession.

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

You are invited to:
Sunday AM
Bible classes: 10:00AM
Sunday AM Worship:
10:45AM
Sunday PM Worship:
5:00 PM
Wednesday Bible
Classes & Worship:
7:00 PM

... IMMERSION'S ROLE IN SALVATION?

Different churches have different teachings about baptism. That is a problem since the Holy Spirit says there is one baptism, not many (Ephesians 4:5). Ideas like “outward sign of an inward grace” and “a symbol of salvation” are often associated with baptism but absent from Scripture. Study these verses--

Mark 16:16 “*He that believes and is baptized shall be saved.*”

Acts 2:38 “*... be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins...*”

Acts 22:16 “*... be baptized and wash away your sins...*”

Romans 6:3 “*... baptized into Christ... baptized into His death...*”

1 Corinthians 12:13 “*... baptized into one body...*”

1 Peter 3:21 “*There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism...*”

No sinner today is saved before baptism, though most religious groups today teach that sinners are saved at the moment of faith or a sinner’s prayer. Baptism is the moment when Jesus’ blood washes away our sins (compare Acts 22:16 & Revelation 1:5). If this is not what you have been taught, then open your Bible and *understand what the will of the Lord is* (Eph. 5:17).

Questions from this month’s articles:

1. What is the difference in “blind faith” and the faith God expects?
2. Explain the difference between faith and repentance.
3. Do we earn salvation by confessing Jesus while seeking His salvation?
4. In Romans 6:3, who and what are we baptized into, which are essential for our salvation?

* Mail your answers to church of Christ—Quail Valley 4104 East Harrison St, Batesville, AR 72501

* OR, e-mail your answers to **TruthAndReason@suddenlink.net**

* Do you have other Bible questions we can help you with? Write or call us (870 793-6700; 569-4491)

* Visit our website **WWW.QVCOC.COM** for further study of these and other Bible subjects.