

Words of

Truth & Reason

Acts 26:25

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CHURCH OF CHRIST—QUAIL VALLEY

Common Questions About Faith (2)

*When does faith bring salvation?
Of what faith are you?*

“Am I saved the moment I believe (by faith only)?” The Bible teaches that we are saved by faith but “not by faith only” (Romans 5:1; Ephesians 2:8; James 2:24). Similarly, you live by drinking water but cannot live on water only. See the difference? God saves those who, by faith in the working of God, are baptized into Christ (Colossians 2:12; 1 Peter 3:21). Without faith it is impossible to please God, but “faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.” (Hebrews 11:6; James 2:17) You cannot find even one person in Scripture who was saved from sin by faith alone. This error misleads many.

“Does God accept many faiths?” Have you ever been asked “Of what faith are you?” Common answers include “I’m of the Baptist (or Catholic) faith.” How would the apostles have answered that question? Ephesians 4:5 says there is “one faith.” Our articles are not spreading “the church of Christ faith,” as if we made our own faith. We write and spread “the faith which was once for all delivered” (Jude 3). This one faith leads people to think and speak the same things, joined in the same mind (1 Corinthians 1:10). What questions do you have about faith?

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Learn From Aquila & Priscilla

In Acts 18:26-28, a married couple named Aquila and Priscilla visited the local synagogue. Why did two Christians go to a Jewish synagogue? Were they there to show an ecumenical spirit, believing that all religions and beliefs are valid? No, for when they heard a lesson on baptism that was not accurate they talked to the speaker to explain *to him the way of God more accurately*. They did not accept all beliefs or religions but corrected the inaccurate beliefs of others.

I admire this couple for visiting the synagogue. They did not belong to a synagogue because of the error taught there. But that did not stop them from visiting and questioning what they heard in an effort to help others understand the way of God. Think about them as you read these articles from time to time. If what you read is not accurate, do what Aquila and Priscilla did—write us and show us the way of God more accurately. And if what you read is accurate, then do not delay to obey God.

Monumental Lessons (1)

“Monumental,” a 2012 movie, tells of a few early American pilgrims who rejected the “Top-Down” human authority of the Church of England. “Top-Down” authority is centralized authority. The Church of England has one human leader who oversees many individual churches. This idea came not from the Bible but The Catholic Church, whose leader (“Pope”) is over many individual churches.

Only Jesus is head of *all* His churches (1 Pet. 5:1-4; Rom. 16:16). He gave *limited* leadership to qualified individuals **IN** each of His churches but gave *no* ongoing leadership to men **OVER** more than one of His churches (read Acts 14:23; 20:17, 28; 1 Timothy 3). When man claims authority over many churches “in God’s name,” this is man-made, “Top-Down” authority, lacking Jesus’ approval and receiving His condemnation (Mt. 7:23; 28:18).

America exists because some pilgrims abandoned “Top-Down” authority. Sadly, it followed them to America and exists in many churches whose members saw this movie! Will you, like these pilgrims, escape this sinful practice?

He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning... that in all things He may have the preeminence.

Colossians 1:18

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**

Monumental Lessons (2)

A 2012 movie (“Monumental”) focused on the need for America today to follow our founders, exemplified by The National Monument to the Forefathers (Plymouth, MA).

In spiritual things, that is our purpose in these articles. We appeal to you to follow **the founders of salvation**--the Father, Son, and Spirit and their messengers, the apostles and prophets (Eph. 3:5; 4:4-6). Over the past two thousand years, many changes have been slowly made to Jesus’ ways.

Why do we preach faith, repentance, and baptism for the remission of sins? Because the founders did (Lk. 24:47; Acts 2:38). Why do we break bread, pray, sing, give, and teach/learn every first day of the week? The founders taught and did so (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:2; Eph. 5:19). Why do we object to the many different teachings and practices that exist? The founders did (1 Tim. 4:1-3; 2 Jn. 9-11). Why do we preach about and claim to be the church of Christ? The founders taught and did so (Matt. 16:18; Rom. 16:16; 1 Thess. 2:14; Acts 20:28).

If you and your church do not teach and practice these things, why not? Open your Bible and follow the founders!

Questions from this issue’s articles:

1. What is the difference between the teachings of salvation by faith and salvation by faith only?
2. What did Aquila and Priscilla do when they heard something they disagreed with?
3. What is “Top-Down” authority, and where did this idea come from in religion?
4. Who are the founders of salvation?

* Mail your answers to the church of Christ in Quail Valley 4104 E. Harrison St, Batesville, AR 72501 OR, e-mail your answers to **TruthAndReason@suddenlink.net**

* If you have a comment or question, call (793-6700; 569-4491) or visit our website **WWW.QVCOC.COM**

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