

"The Salvation Which is in Christ Jesus"

(2 Timothy 2:10)

Lesson Seven: False Doctrines about Salvation – Salvation by Faith Alone (2)

Introduction. We have seen that salvation is a gift of God and not something that human beings can merit. In reaction to false doctrines teaching salvation by merit, some have reacted with the extreme doctrine that salvation is by faith alone. There is no question that the Bible teaches salvation "by faith" but it is important to recognize that the New Testament uses the word "faith" in different ways.

I. Personal Faith.

A. Read Genesis 15:5-6. What did Abraham personally do when God made this promise to him? _____

1. Read Galatians 3:7-9. What must we do if we are to be blessed with "believing Abraham"? _____
2. Read Hebrews 11:6. What is necessary in order to please God? _____
   _____

B. Read Galatians 2:15-16. This text twice teaches how one is justified, and how one is not justified.

1. Write both statements regarding how one is justified:
   1) _____ 2) _____
2. Write both statements regarding how one is not justified:
   1)_____ 2) _____
3. Read Romans 5:1-2. By what does Paul say we have access into God's grace?
   _____
4. Read Habakkuk 2:4. By what does the prophet say man shall live?_____

II. The System of Faith in Christ.

A. Read Romans 1:16-17. In this passage Paul quotes Habakkuk 2:4. While Habakkuk (and Paul's quote) address personal faith, what does Paul mean by the phrase "from faith to faith"? _____
_____

1. To what is Paul referring when he speaks of "the gospel of Christ"? _____
   _____
   _____

B. While one must "believe in the gospel" (Mark 1:15), it is also a term that summarizes a system of faith. Read Philippians 1:27. For what does Paul hope the Philippians will be "striving together" in "one mind"? _____
_____

C. Read Jude 3. For what does Jude urge the reader to contend?_____
_____

1. This system of faith contained in the gospel is not merely personal faith. It is something taught (Read Acts 24:24). What did Felix hear from Paul?_____
_____
2. It is something one must obey (Read Acts 6:7). Who were said to be "obedient to the faith"? _____
3. It is something in which one must stand (Acts 14:21-22). What did Paul exhort the brethren to do? _____
4. It is something from which one may move away (Read Colossians 1:21-23). From what may one be moved away? _____
To avoid this, in what must one continue? _____

III. Saving Faith.

A. Although Scripture teaches that one is "justified by faith," it also teaches that one is "justified by works and not faith alone" (Read James 2:23-24).
1. According to this text, is faith the only condition necessary to receive salvation? _____

B. Read John 12:42-43. Were these believers acceptable to God by faith alone? _____
What did they fail to do?_____

C. Read Acts 8:13-21. Did Simon believe?_____
1. When Simon tried to purchase the miraculous power of the Holy Spirit what did Peter say about his heart? _____
_____
2. What did Peter say about him and his money? _____
3. While we cannot say that one who is disobedient "never believed in the first place" (as some claim), it is true that the type of faith that is pleasing to God is an obedient faith.

D. Read James 2: 21-22. How does James teach that Abraham's faith was made "perfect"? _____
1. How can it then be true that "Abraham believed God and it was accounted to him for righteousness"? _____
_____
_____

Conclusion. While it is clear that personal faith is a necessary condition in order to accept the gift of salvation, the Bible does not teach it as the sole condition of salvation. The system of faith comprising the gospel of Jesus Christ is the sole plan of redemption by which human beings may be saved. It is a system of faith that must be learned, accepted, obeyed, and in which men and women must continue in order to receive salvation.