

WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST



“every disciple that is perfect shall be as his master.” Luke 6:40b

Man Is Saved by Nothing "Alone"

Just a cursory reading of the Bible reveals that men are saved by many things. Yet we so often read from supposed Bible-scholars that men are saved by "grace alone" or by "faith alone." They no sooner say this than they contradict themselves. Some say man is saved by "grace alone" but that he must believe. Others say he is saved by "faith alone" but he must "repent" of his sins and say the "sinner's prayer." If they would just stick with what the scriptures say, they could eliminate all this confusion. Note what the Bible says about being saved:

1. We are saved by grace (Eph 2:5).
2. We are saved by faith (Eph 2:8).
3. We are saved by baptism (1 Pet 3:21).
4. We are saved by obedience (Heb 5:9).
5. We are saved by confession (Rom 10:9-10).
6. We are saved by repentance (Luke 24:47).
7. We are saved by belief and baptism (Mark 16:16).
8. We are saved by repentance and baptism (Acts 2:38).
9. We are saved by hope (Rom 8:24).
10. We are saved by works (James 2:24).
11. We are saved by mercy (Titus 3:5).
12. We are saved by the washing of regeneration (Titus 3:5).
13. We are saved by the renewing of the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5).

Reformation theologians and their modern Protestant heirs are so fearful of the medieval Catholic doctrine of salvation by works that they distort beyond recognition the Bible doctrine of the "obedience of faith" (see Rom 1:5; 16:26). To do this they subtly add the word "alone" or "only" to the teaching of salvation by grace and salvation by faith.

Yes, the scripture does condemn the Judaistic doctrine of "salvation by works"- by works of law or works of the law (see Gal 2:16). Every discussion of this topic in the New Testament refers to salvation by perfect obedience in the absence of grace (see Gal 3:10-11). It has no reference to works of obedience in acceptance of God's gracious blessings in Christ. ... *(continued on page 2)*

“Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.” - James 2:23,24

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RECORDS 4/18/2010

Sun 10 AM Bible Study: 52
Sun 11 AM Assembly: 88
Sun 6 PM Assembly: 50
Weds 7 PM Bible Study: 44
CONTRIBUTION: \$22224

SERMONS 4/25/2010

AM: Jerry Manning
CHRIST IS FAR ABOVE
PM: Jerry Manning
WHEN CHRIST RETURNS

**"For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love,
which you have showed toward his name,
in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister." - Hebrews 6:10**

A Warm Welcome awaits you at all our services. Come see!
www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org

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SERVICES

Sunday 10 AM Bible Study
Sunday 11 AM, 6 PM Assembly
Wednesday 7 PM Bible Study
Office Phone (803) 794-5320
Nursery provided

Bible Classes for all ages

LADIES CLASS

2nd Tuesday of month 7-9 PM

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“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

- **REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** Lamar Reeves, Nina Ruth Meadows (Marcella Klieves' mother), Jack and Elma Berrier, Lynn Drago (Jerry's sister) and Phyllis Johnson.
- **Margie DeYoung** is very ill and requests our prayers.
- **Jean Boyd** is not well either, still recovering from extensive foot surgery.
- **We have many that are ill: Marilyn Brooks, Ron Banks, Margaret Herring, Jean Boyd, Anna Porter, Sue Eiland, Craig Robinson, Carolyn Lee, and Margie DeYoung.**
- Remember all these in your prayers. Write them a card, give them a call, let them know you're praying for them and see if they'd like a visit:
- **Brother Manning** has many Bible studies during the week, remember them.

"For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." - Romans 8:18

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- **Ladies Day!** St. Andrews Road, Saturday May 1st.
- **Youth Devo SATURDAYS 7 pm, College age Bible study TUESDAYS 7 pm.**
- **Any of the men of the congregation** with a desire to teach are encouraged to see brother **Manning** to prepare some Wednesday night devotionals/invitations. We were all encouraged by our brother **Lamar Reeves** who gave a devotional and invitation again, last Wednesday.
- **Pantry items** to bring to the church building. Remember, pop-tops are best.

4/25 Dole Mandarin Oranges 4/18 Campbells Chunky Bean & Ham Soup

"and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labor." - 1 Corinthians 3:8

Man Is Saved by Nothing "Alone" (continued from page 1)

Paul, for example, says we are all sons of God by faith because we have been baptized into Christ and have put on Christ (Gal 3:26-27). Men are not saved by merely being baptized, but because in the obedience of faith they have come into Christ and unto God's grace. Paul also says of Christ that men are baptized "into his death," where his blood was shed, and are, thus, saved by grace. Out of baptism they arise to walk as new creatures who are free from sin (see Rom 6:3-4; 2 Cor 5:17).

Those who add "only" to grace, faith, baptism, obedience, confession, repentance, hope, works, mercy - or anything else - are perverting the teaching of scripture and rejecting God's plan of salvation by grace through the obedience of faith.

--L. A. Stauffer, Evangelist, Kirkwood Church of Christ, Kirkwood, MO

BE CONTENT - MOVE ON

A poor man was out looking for food for himself and his family. It was cold, and he wore an old, cast off, badly torn and stained overcoat. It looked bad, but kept him fairly warm. A passer by asked him if he wouldn't like a better coat? He replied, "No, it's ok" and moved on. There were a lot of things he'd *like* to have, but he was looking for those things he *needed*. His coat was sufficient and he knew it. What he needed was to find food for himself and his family, not to stop and worry about a coat. If he hadn't been satisfied with the coat and instead gone looking for something better, he would have been distracted from looking for the more important and necessary things. He and his family would then likely go hungry. No, he had his goal and priorities right.

What's your goal? This world, or the next? Are cares for things of **this** world distracting you from what you need to be doing in the church—preparing for the **next** world? God doesn't want you to be distracted:

"Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." - Hebrews 13:5

God wants us to be content with the physical things we have so we'll devote ourselves instead to the spiritual things, the unseen things, the eternal things and grow in Godliness. Satan, the god of this world, wants you to be distracted with the things of the world. Read **2 Corinthians 4** to see this. Who are you listening too? If you're pursuing the things of the world, don't be surprised if you're not happy.

"But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content." - 1 Timothy 6:6-8

The Lord hasn't given us "Hand-me-downs". What could we want that would be better than what he's given us — His **Son**, a **hope of resurrection** to eternal life with Him, and **three promises** to get us there, if we'll have faith and **act** on them:

"ASK, and it shall be given you; SEEK, and ye shall find; KNOCK, and it shall be opened unto you:" - Matthew 7:7

Let's be content with what we have, and look forward to what we need!

"Remember Lot's wife." - Luke 17:32

- **Ed Kelleher**, West Columbia church of Christ, South Carolina

"For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" - Mark 8:36