



The Voice Of Truth

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Which One Will You Take Your Stand With? Part III

By Jimmy Pettigrew

We have been looking at the views on church authority. We have examined the Methodist and Roman Catholic faith. This week let us examine the teaching of the Baptist faith.

The Baptist faith teaches salvation by faith only. They argue for the doctrine of “faith only” because they sincerely believe the Bible teaches it (John 3:16; 11:25-26; Acts 16:31). But did you notice, and we always point it out, none of those passages say “faith only or “faith alone? Now someone might say, “Well, the phrase ‘by faith’ means faith only.” Does it? Take Hebrews 11:7: “By faith Noah, being warned of God concerning things not seen as yet, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; through which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith? Now if the phrase “by faith” in that passage means “faith only,” let’s substitute it and see if it makes sense. It would read “By faith only. . . Noah. . . prepared an ark? Did he really? Without tools, without working with the tools? Who can for one instant believe such? No, the phrase “by faith” doesn’t mean “faith only.”

Notice another passage. John 1:12 says, “But as many as received him, to them gave he the right to become children of God, even to them that believe on his

name . . . “ Can words be clearer? If you believe in Christ you have the right or power TO BECOME a child of God. You are not a child of God by faith alone; you have the RIGHT TO BECOME ONE. The Bible teaches faith without works is dead (Jas. 2:17) and faith is shown by works (Jas. 2:18). Faith is made perfect by works (Jas. 2:22). A man is not saved by faith only (Jas.2:24) for faith without works is as dead as the body without the spirit (Jas. 2:26).

We contended that man is not saved by faith alone, but that obedience was required. In fact, in the Bible when it says faith saves or justifies it is talking of a faith inclusive of works of obedience. Romans 1:5 and Romans 16:26 talk of the “obedience of faith?”

The Baptist faith teaches one cannot fall from grace. “Those whom God has accepted can neither totally nor finally fall from the state of grace, but shall certainly persevere therein to the end and be eternally saved seeing the gifts and callings of God are without repentance.” Paragraph 2, this perseverance of the saints depends not upon theft own free will but upon the immutability of decree of election.” Hiscox’s Guide for Baptist Churches, page 176 quotes the Westminster Confession of Faith.

This is a doctrine which says once you are saved you will always be saved, no matter what you do. The Bible teaches Judas by transgression fell (Acts 1:25). Hymenaeus and Alexander made “shipwreck” of their faith (1 Tim. 1:19-20). Paul knew it was possible to fall even after he had preached to others (I Cor 9:27). Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall” (1 Cor. 10:12). If you turn back to the Law of Moses, “Ye are severed from Christ, ye who would be justified by the law, ye are fallen from grace” (Gal. 5:4). Now the Galatian Christians were on their way to do that very thing - fall away from grace. To be in Christ is to be in the grace of Christ. But what if you fall away from it? You have lost that by which you are saved. Now that is pretty strong language. To tell a Christian that he will be severed from Christ and that he will fall from grace is the same as telling him he will be saved no more. Willful sins causes one to fall (Hebrews 10:26). The parable of the sower (Lk. 8) shows that one can fall. “Those by the wayside are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved” (Lk. 8: 12j. The devil took the word away lest they should believe and be saved. Compare this with (vs. 13): “They on the rock are they, which when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away.” They believe a while; they were saved, but in time of temptation fell away.

Notice John 15:1-6, here Jesus is talking of a man who is in Christ (vs. 2). That man does not bear fruit (vs. 2). He doesn't remain in Christ, is cast forth, withered, and finally burned (vs. 6). The text clearly says he was in Christ, but that his end was to be burned. I think you can see that does not teach once saved one is always saved. To be in Christ is to be saved. But this man, once in Christ, does not bear fruit and his end is to be burned.

Also, read these passages concerning falling from grace (2 Pet 2:20-22; Heb. 6:4-8; Rom. 11:20-22;

2 Pet. 1:5-10).

We have looked at many scriptures which refute the doctrine of once saved always saved. Now let us look at a couple arguments which they use to try to prove this false doctrine.

The argument is sometimes made on this statement: “To be saved means to be safe; so if he is safe he can never be lost” The only problem with that is “saved” and ‘safe” do not mean the same thing. For example, a baseball runner tries to steal second base. He runs, the catcher throws the ball, the umpire says he is safe. Then he tries to steal third and he is thrown out. No, once safe, not always safe, just like once saved, not always saved.

There is the argument that once one is a son he is always a son. One is made a child of God be being born of the water and the Spirit, and once he is a son he is always a son. In other words, “you can't be unborn,” they say. Well, there are many differences in spiritual birth and physical birth. Nevertheless, a child can certainly be disinherited. God calls Israel, when they came out of Egypt, a son (Hos. 11:1). But when they rebel after the ten spies bring discouraging report about the promised land God says, “I will smite them with the pestilence, and disinherit them, and will make of thee a nation greater and mightier than they” (Num. 14:12). This actually happened in a sense for we read in Romans 11:20-21: “Well: by their unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by thy faith. Be not highminded, but fear for if God spared not the natural branches, neither will he spare thee.” So everywhere one turns in scripture the doctrine which once saved always saved is a false doctrine. It is just the kind of doctrine which would be in the gospel according to Satan.

The Baptist doctrine is not Bible doctrine. We ask that you reason with us on the Bible only!