



The Voice Of Truth

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Hillcrest church of Christ

1621 Hillcrest Drive
Green Bay, WI 54313
(920) 499-5677

www.hillcrestchurchofchrist.com

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Is a person saved if they only believe?

By Jimmy Pettigrew

The doctrine is called saved by "faith only." This doctrine is not taught in the Bible. Faith alone is not enough, one must repent (**Lk 13:3**), confess his faith (**Rom. 10:9-10**), and be baptized for the remission of sins (**Acts 2:38; 22:16**).

Notice **John 12:42, 43**. ⁴²*Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: ⁴³For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.* This passage says they believed. Was it enough? No, according to Jesus, faith only is not enough. One must go on and confess Jesus. Here in **John 12** is an example of some who only believe, and they are lost.

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**.

Notice this rather long portion of Scripture **James 2:14-26**. Now it seems to me that no passage can be clearer than this. Faith, divorced from works, is: profitless **verse 16**, dead **verse 17**, unseen **verse 18**, demonic **verse 19**, barren **verse 20**, unperfected **verse 22**, and unlike that of the great O.T. characters **verses 22, 25**. Then in **verse 24** James expressly says that one is justified by works and NOT by faith only. And finally he concludes by saying faith without works is just as dead as a body without a spirit **verse 26**.

Look at Luke 8:43-48. A woman had an issue of blood twelve years. Physicians could not heal her. She came behind Jesus and touched the hem of His garment and was healed. Jesus felt power proceeding from Him and asked who touched Him. When she

knew He was aware she confessed all. And He said to her, "Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace" (**Lk. 8:48**). When did her faith make her whole? Was it when she had faith alone, or when it was joined with works and became no longer dead faith but became a living faith? It made her whole when it expressed itself in action, and not faith alone.

The faith that avails in the sight of God is the faith that works through love (**Gal. 5:6**).

FIVE THINGS WE NEED TO DO WITH THE WORD OF GOD

We Need To Listen To The Word.

Romans 10:17 says that our faith comes from hearing the word.

We Need To Read The Word.

Revelation 1:3 indicates that we are blessed when we read aloud the word.

We Need To Study The Word.

2 Timothy 2:15 challenges us to learn how to rightly divide the word through study.

We Need To Memorize The Word.

Psalms 119:11 talks about hiding the word in our hearts.

We Need To Meditate On The Word.

Joshua was encouraged to meditate day and night on God's word (Joshua 1:8).

JUST SUPPOSE

1. Suppose that your church membership was good only for one year at a time and that renewal depended on your

faithfulness in attendance, stewardship and service. Would you retain your membership in the church?

2. Suppose that membership was limited to those who could give a valid excuse for absences. Would your absences be acceptable?

3. Suppose that some parents could look into the future and see the dreadful results of neglecting the teaching of Christ. Would they be different parents?

4. Suppose members were as enthusiastic about the church events as they are about sporting events. Would there be a marked difference in the life of the church?

5. Suppose that every member attended church services as much as you did. Would we need more seating, or would the building be closed and for sale?

6. Suppose that we renew our dedication to Jesus Christ. Our attendance and stewardship would increase and all would rejoice in the Lord!

SUPPOSE - JUST SUPPOSE

Yes, just suppose that next Sunday Jesus stood at the end of the pew where you sit as you were about to place your offering in the collection plate, and just suppose that instead of the collection plate, he held out his hand. The hand that was nailed to the cross for you. Would you be willing to place your offering in that nail pierced hand?

Could you look upon that face stained with blood from the thorn pricked brow; see the body that was beaten and placed upon the cross, could you do this, look him in the eye and say, **Lord I'm giving all I can?**

Suppose as you looked upon Jesus, with the torn hands and feet, the beaten body, the pierced side and head crowned with thorns, he said to you, **This is how I showed my love to you.**