

Continued from Page Three, "Are We Saved By Faith Alone?"

in him. By this we know that we are in Him." (1 John 2:4-5). •

whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected

**We Need Fewer Givers**  
 By John Gipson, www.moodychurchofchrist.com

We have a problem. We have too many givers. We would be better off if we did not have so many.

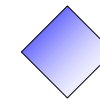
There are too many who GIVE UP! They serve Christ for a while, but then just quit. At one time they attended faithfully all of the services of the church, but they have started dropping by the wayside. They need to remember that Jesus said, "No man having put his hands to the plow and looking back is fit for the kingdom of God" (Lk. 9:62). The easiest thing in the world is just to quit. Remember that the reward comes after endurance. Don't quit!

There are too many who GIVE OVER! They become guilty of the sin of compromise. They frantically try to please men rather than God. Afraid of the disapproval and ridicule of others they just give over. In contrast with this compromising spirit, we need to hear the words of inspiration, which tell us to STAND (Eph. 6:14).

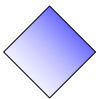
There are too many who GIVE IN! They give in to defeatism. "What is the use?" "It doesn't do any good." "I just can't live the Christian life." And with one excuse or another they give in to defeatism and despair. They bury their talent and go on their way, and Satan has made another conquest.

There are too many who GIVE OUT! They give out before the race is finished. And there is little point in running half a race. What a shame it is to run so far and never finish. Jesus promised, "But he that shall endure to the end, the same shall be saved" (Mk. 13:13).

Let us each resolve not to GIVE UP, GIVE OVER, GIVE IN OR GIVE OUT!



# The Voice of Truth



A weekly publication of the Hillcrest church of Christ

August 15, 2010

**One Dies Before Baptism**  
 Jimmy Pettigrew

If someone has accepted the Lord Jesus in repentance, and dies before baptism, is he saved? The truth is that no one can "accept the Lord Jesus" without baptism, for it was the Lord who put baptism into the gospel and required it of all who would come to Him.

Christ doesn't give us options about how to accept Him. Please notice these passages: Redemption is found in Christ (Romans 3:24); There is no condemnation to them which are in Christ (Romans 8:1); The love of God is found in Christ (Romans 8:39). We are sanctified in Christ (1 Corinthians 1:2); In Christ shall all be made alive (1 Corinthians 15:22); We are new creatures in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 6:15); We are reconciled back to God by being in Christ (Isaiah 59:1-2; 2 Corinthians 5:19; Ephesians 2:13); We are all the children of God by being in Christ (Galatians 3:26-27); All blessings are found in Christ (Ephesians 1:3); We are made to sit together in heavenly places in Christ (Ephesians 2:6); Grace is found in Christ (2 Timothy 2:10).

The truth is that until one is baptized into Christ (Romans 6:3), he is not in Christ. Until one believes and is baptized, he is not saved (Mark 16:16). Until one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God (John 3:5). Baptism washes away sins (Acts 22:16). And until one is baptized into Christ, into his death (Romans 6:3), his sins have not been washed away.

**Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God." - John 3:5**

These passages show the Lord's purpose for baptism. Can you please answer these questions? Is one in Christ before baptism (Romans 6:3)? Are sins washed away before baptism (Acts 22:16)? Is one saved before baptism (Mark 16:16)? Is one in the kingdom before baptism (John 3:5)? If a man dies on his way to his own wedding, is his intended bride a widow?

The truth is that no one can accept the Lord Jesus without baptism, for it was the Lord who put baptism into the gospel and required it of ALL who would come to Him. One cannot accept the Lord by faith only, by repentance only, by confession only, nor by baptism only. All, not just one, of those are required by Christ! •

**What Must I Do To Be Saved?**

- Hear and Learn - Rom. 10:17 m. 10:9-10 ; 1 Pet. 3:21 ; John 6:45; 17:3
- Believe - Heb. 11:6; John 6:29; 8:24
- Repent - Luke 13:3; Acts 3:19; 17:30
- Confess the Lord - Matt. 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10; 1 Pet. 3:21
- Be Baptized - Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16; Gal. 3:26-27
- Continue in the Apostles' Teaching - Acts 2:42; 2 Tim. 3:14-17

**In This Issue...**

Pages 1 to 2 - One Dies Before Baptism  
 Pages 3 to 4 - We Need Fewer Givers  
 Pages 2 to 4 - Are We Saved By Faith Alone?

**About the Hillcrest church of Christ**

Evangelist: Jimmy Pettigrew

**How to Contact Us**

Telephone: (920)499-5677  
 E-mail: hillcrestcofc@live.com



**Our Address**

1621 Hillcrest Drive  
 Green Bay, WI 54313



**Schedule of Assembly**

Bible Study: Sunday, 9:00am  
 Worship Service: Sunday, 10:00am  
 Bible Study: Wednesday, 7:00pm\*

\*A song service is held on the last Wednesday of every month

www.hillcrestchurchofchrist.com

## Are We Saved By Faith Alone?

By David J. Riggs, <http://oakridgechurch.com/riggs/>

**John 3:16** teaches "faith" ("belief"), but does not teach, "faith alone" or "faith only." "Faith alone" is nowhere taught in the Scriptures. Faith is emphasized, but faith only is condemned. James said, "You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only." (**James 2:24**). Many of the chief rulers had only faith or faith alone and were condemned. "Nevertheless even among the rulers many believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God." (**John 12:42-43**).

A religion that requires faith and obedience is the religion of the Bible. **Heb. 5:9** says, "And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him..." The whole system of faith-only religion is condemned by one simple statement of our Lord, "But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do the things which I say?" (**Luke 6:46**). Jesus often taught that we must believe and obey. "If you love Me, keep My commandments." (**John 14:15**), "He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me..." (**John 14:21**). **Rev. 22:14** says, "Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city."

There is a world of difference between being saved by faith and being saved by faith alone. Faith is absolutely necessary. We are justified by faith (**Rom. 5:1**). Without faith it is impossible to please God (**Heb. 11:6**). Faith is everywhere taught in the Scriptures. However, faith only is nowhere taught. The only time that "faith" and "only" are together in the Bible is in **James 2:24** and it says, "You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only."

Peter said, "For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?" (**1 Pet. 4:17**). Paul said, "And to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ." (**2 Thess. 1:7-8**). **Rom. 10:16** says, "But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, 'Lord, who has believed our report?'" Jesus said, "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock." (**Matt. 7:24**).

Consequently, beyond any doubt, we must not only believe the gospel, but must obey it as well.

If one is saved by "faith alone," it cannot be by grace. When one teaches "faith alone," he excludes everything else. The truth is that many things have a part in our salvation. Faith, grace, obedience, works of God, etc., all play a part in our salvation. Even the grace of God teaches us godly behavior (godly conduct) as shown in **Titus 2:11-12**, "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age." The Bible nowhere teaches grace alone, faith alone, or works alone. **Heb. 11:7** says, "By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith." **Heb. 11:8** says, "By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going." Also, please examine the rest of **Hebrews 11** which shows how the faithful were moved by faith to obey.

Some will say, "What about the jailer who was told, 'Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household'?" (**Acts 16:31**). The jailer was told those words because it is the starting point for every unbeliever. The next verses show (**Acts 16:31-34**) that the jailer and his household, after believing on the Lord, obeyed the Lord. They responded to the things commanded by the Lord. Remember, **Heb. 5:9** says, "And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him." **James 1:25** says, "But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does."

People often say, "You can't trust in your good works to save you." I don't know of a single Christian, and have never met one, who trusts in his good works alone, or his good life alone to save him. True Christians simply trust in the Lord and do what He commanded. Jesus Himself went about doing the works of God. He said, "I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work." (**John 9:4**). "I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do." (**John 17:4**). When Jesus did the works of

*Continued on Page Three*

*Continued from Page Two, "Are We Saved By Faith Alone?"*

God, did He trust in His works? Likewise, we do not trust in our works to save us. We simply do the Lord's works, trusting in Him to save us as He has promised. **1 Pet. 4:19** says, "Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator." **Gal. 5:6** says, "For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love." **Eccl. 12:13-14** says, "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, Whether it is good or whether it is evil."

Furthermore, people often say, "We are saved by the blood of Christ, and if one adds some kind of works, including baptism, he defeats salvation by the blood." According to this, one could not add faith because it would defeat salvation by the blood. Jesus said, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent." (**John 6:29**). Thus, according to Jesus, faith is a work which God ordained. Jesus Himself added many works to His teaching; i.e., faith, repentance, confession, baptism. He said, "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned." (**Mark 16:16**). Paul added works by saying the grace of God teaches them (**Titus. 2:11-12**). Peter added works (**Acts 2:38**), and so did John (**1 John 2:3**). Jesus said, "You are My friends if you do whatever I command you." (**John 15:14**). Thus, one can teach that one is saved by the blood of Christ, and then add the works which God ordained, which includes baptism.

Additionally, people often cite **Eph. 2:8-9** and **Rom. 11:6** to teach that we are not saved by works. However, neither of the passages teach that the works of God are not required. When it says, "not of works" which works are under consideration? There are at least four kinds of works mentioned in the Scriptures: (1) Evil works, works of the flesh, or works of the devil (**Gal. 5:19-21**); (2) Works of the Law of Moses (**Gal. 2:16; Rom. 2:16**); (3) Man's own works, or works of man's own choosing - "not according to our works" (**2 Tim. 1:9**), "not by works of righteousness which we have done" (**Titus 3:5**); and (4) The works of God -- the works which God ordained in the Scriptures (**2 Tim. 3:16-17**). We are to abound in every good work (**2 Cor. 9:8**). We are to be ready to every good work (**Titus 3:1**). We are to be fruitful in every good work (**Col. 1:10**). We are to provoke to love and good works (**Heb. 10:24**). We are to work righteousness (**Acts 10:34-35**). If we, from our own devising command a work; i.e., if we had originated bap-

tism, we could not be saved by it. However, if it is a work of God, it is required, and we are saved by it. **1 Pet. 3:21** says, "There is also an antitype which now saves us; baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ." Thus, baptism is a work of God, not a work of man. **Luke 7:30** says, "But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the will of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him." The same is true for those who reject the baptism of Christ today.

The "works" under consideration in **Eph. 2:9** are the works of man's own devising that he could boast in. We are not saved by those. **Eph. 2:8-9** is not referring to the works of God because the very next verse says, "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." (**Eph. 2:10**).

Paul is showing in **Rom. 11:6** that the source or means of the election is not of works. In other words, the election (the origin of God's choices) came as result of grace, not works. Paul is not teaching in **Rom. 11:6** that works are not required. He taught obedience to the faith (**Rom. 1:5; 16:26**). He taught that one must be buried with Christ in baptism and raised to walk in newness of life (**Rom. 6:3-5**). He taught that one must present his members as instruments of righteousness (**Rom. 6:13**). He gave many commands and exhortations to godly living, i.e., **Rom. 12:6-21**. Also he said, "But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness." (**Rom. 6:17-18**)

Surely, the "faith alone" religion is a do-nothing religion. It cannot be the religion of Christ. Jesus said, "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven." (**Matt. 7:21**).

In closing, I encourage and exhort you to carefully and honestly consider all that the holy Scriptures teach regarding obedience. Many think they trust and love the Lord. Indeed, they think they know God. However, in reality they do not love the Lord nor do they know God. Jesus said, "If you love Me, keep My commandments." (**John 14:15**). "For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome." (**1 John 5:3**). "He who says, 'I know Him,' and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But

*Continued on Page Four*