

Continued from Page One, "Christian Outlaws"

prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded" (Acts 19:13-16).

In one case, they acted with the Lord's authority and were blessed in their effort. In the other case, they merely, "called the name of the Lord Jesus over those" they were casting out demons from, thus acting without the Lord's authority. These were not blessed. Consider this in light of our Lord's warning in the sermon on the mount, which says, "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. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in

Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness'" (Matt. 7:21-23).

To practice lawlessness is to be a Christian outlaw, which Jesus clearly condemns! Therefore, it is a good thing to be sure you have the Lord's written blessing from His word for your words or actions. "Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him" (Col. 3:17). Someone who asks for authority (i.e., book, chapter and verse) for the words you speak or the deeds you propose to do or have done is not an enemy, but a friend, for they would not see you fall to the same condemnation of those the Lord spoke of in Matthew 7:21-23. Think about it...

Credit: www.moodychurchofchrist.com ♦

I Am Your Bulletin

- I am not just another piece of paper.
- I am your weekly church information sheet.
- I do not come to you easily, or without expense.
- I cost money, time, thought, and energy.
- I should not be taken for granted.
- I can only be as useful and valuable as you allow me to be.
- I am often abused and overlooked.
- Sometimes all I get is a fleeting glance.
- Sometimes all I get is a critical analysis.
- I want so much for you to read me, study me, appreciate me, and make me useful for your spiritual activity and development.
- I want to serve you. ♦

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

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

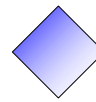


Schedule of Assembly

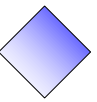
Bible Study: Sunday, 9:00am
Worship Service: Sunday, 10:00am
Bible Study: Wednesday, 7:00pm*

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

www.hillcrestchurchofchrist.com



The Voice of Truth



February 20, 2011

"Can 'Faith Alone' Save Him?"

By Jimmy Pettigrew

Yes, we are well aware of the fact that many believe and teach that, "man is saved by faith alone is a most wholesome doctrine and very full of comfort." "What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? Can faith save him?" (Jas. 2:14). Of course, a man is saved by faith! Without it, it would be impossible to please God (Heb. 11:6). We are saved by faith (Jno. 3:16). Faith is necessary to get one to God's power (Rom. 1:16). Faith is a must to live the Christian life (Gal. 2:20). Faith is not a leap into a religious darkness (2 Cor. 5:7). "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Rom. 10:17). So the New Testament teaches consistently we are saved by faith.

But, we also know that it is not faith alone. Take a moment to look at what James is saying in (Jas. 2:14). He was asking if a do nothing, inactive, all talk and no work faith could save. Can that faith save him? NO, it cannot! "Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only" (Jas. 2:24). Could we find a passage that would state this more clearly? This is as clear as it can be. There are other passages that will prove beyond a doubt that one is not saved by faith alone. "Nevertheless even of the rulers many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess (it), lest they should be put out of the synagogue: for they loved the glory (that is) of men more than the glory (that is) of God" (Jno. 12:42-43). Now this passage says they believed. John said they believed; but that is all they did. Would they be saved? Was it enough? If one is saved by faith alone, these would surely be saved. Faith only, in their case stopped short of confessing Christ. The enormity of that situation is seen in the following teaching of Jesus: "Every one therefore who shall confess me before men, him will I also confess before my Father who is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father who is in heaven" (Matt. 10:32-33). No, according to Jesus, faith alone is not enough. Thus, their belief did not avail because it did not lead them on to confess Jesus. Here in

John 12 is an example of some who only believe, and they are lost.

There is another passage that will prove beyond a doubt that one is not saved by faith alone. "For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love" (Gal. 5:6). Salvation is not by faith alone. True faith expresses itself, it works. Faith working through love. "Love" (agape) occurs here for the first time in this letter. Jesus said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments" (Jno. 14:15). The works included in salvation are the commandments of the Lord, obedience to which is absolutely essential to salvation. "He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him" (1 Jno. 2:4). Faith blesses only when it leads its possessor to obedience. Chapter 11 of Hebrews is Inspiration's Hall of Fame. Numerous examples of great faith are offered by the inspired penman and in each instance the mention of the faith of its immortal heroes is followed by a verb of action. "By faith Abel offered ...," "By faith Noah.. . prepared an ark . . .," "By faith Abraham... obeyed ..." Faith will save us only when we allow it to lead us on to the full acceptance of the will of God as expressed through His commandments (Matt. 7:21). "Shew me thy faith without thy works" (Jas. 2:18). Such is impossible, faith cannot be seen; its existence is evidenced only through the works which it produces. "I will shew thee my faith by my works" (Jas. 2:18). "Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar?" (Jas. 2:21). How was he justified? Not merely by a profession, but by works of faith. "Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect"? (Jas. 2:22). "Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only" (Jas. 2:24). In other words, his faith itself was counted as an act of obedience.

Notice another passage. John 1:12 says, "But as many as received him, to them gave he the right to become

Continued on Page Two

In This Issue...

Pages 1 to 2 - "Can 'Faith Alone' Save Him?"
Pages 2 to 3 - "Reasons The Early Church Grew"

Pages 3 to 4 - Christian Outlaws
Page 4 - I Am Your Bulletin | What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Continued from Page Three, "Can 'Faith Alone' Save Him?"

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 says one must believe Jesus is the Christ to be saved (**Jno. 8:24**). But that is not all. It also says he must repent of his sins (**Lk. 13:3-5; Acts 3:19**). Repentance is a change of mind regarding sin with a view to amend one's life. But that is not all. The Bible teaches that one must confess his faith that Jesus is the Christ, the son of God (**Matt. 10:32; Rom. 10:9-10; 1 Tim. 6:12**). Having done that, one more thing more follows. One must be bap-

“Reasons The Early Church Grew”

By Jarrod Jacobs

Growth is something we are all concerned about. In some houses, we may see marks on the wall where “junior” was measured during his early years. Sometimes we pass through a town, and someone will say, “Look at how this town has grown!” God is also concerned with growth. However, His focus is not only physical, but spiritual. **Hebrews 5:12-14** is but one example of God’s concern for His children’s growth.

Looking to the book of Acts, we see the early church grew by leaps and bounds. Why was that? In this study, we will look at some reasons why the early church grew the way it did.

The Early Church Grew Because Of The Preaching.

I want us to look at the preaching done from two angles: the type of preaching, and the amount of preaching. We see the type of preaching was Jesus and Him crucified. The first sermon preached on the Pentecost following the Lord’s crucifixion concerned Jesus and His death, burial and resurrection (**Acts 2:22-36**). Looking through the book of Acts, we see that other teachers followed suit. Philip preached Christ (**Acts 8:5, 12, 35**). The apostle Paul preached about Christ as well (**Acts 13:27-38; 17:1-3**). Preaching was also done concerning the necessity of obedience to God’s word (**Acts 2:37-38**). We know this because obedience was on the mind of the Ethiopian eunuch when he asked Philip, “See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?” (**Acts 8:36**). These preachers preached the oracles of God (**1 Pet. 4:11**). No apostle, or sound teacher taught their own opinions. They taught the

tized into Christ for the remission of sins to be saved (**Mk. 16:16; Gal. 3:27; Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16**).

The one who claims to have faith, but will not do the work of the Lord, it is a dead faith! (**Jas. 2:17**). This is the way James would describe such a faith. *"But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?"* (**Jas. 2:20**). Look again, *"For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also"* (**Jas. 2:26**). James speaks of faith without works as faith alone. But of that faith he will say that it is a dead faith. Now, is man saved by a dead faith? Absolutely not! From this we can conclude that faith alone will not save. The notion that faith alone saved was spawned by the Protestant Reformation. It was an extreme reaction against the meritorious "work salvation" of the Catholic faith. It is a false doctrine! ♦

truth, God’s word (**Jn. 17:17**).

The amount of preaching is evident in the book of Acts. In **Acts 2:42** and **Acts 2:46**, we see people who were “continuing” in God’s word. They were taught on a daily basis, not “once in a while”! People were taught not only publicly, but privately also (**Acts 5:42**). There were daily results from daily preaching (**Acts 2:47**)!

The Early Church Grew Because Of The Unity.

The book of Acts reveals a people who were united in their concern, purpose, and motive. They were living as Jesus prayed they would in **John 17:21-23**. **Acts 4:32** says, *"And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common."* These brethren genuinely cared and loved one another. *"And all that believed were together, and had all things common; And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need"* (**Acts 2:44-45**). This unity brought the early Christians together during times of adversity and made the church grow spiritually and physically.

The Early Church Grew Because Of The Corrective Discipline.

That is correct, the early church took corrective action at times! Please read **Acts 5:1-11**, and notice the corrective action taken by God. What was the result you ask?

Continued on Page Three

Continued from Page Two, "Reasons The Early Church Grew"

Answer: *"And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women"* (**Acts 5:14**). Yes friends, corrective discipline must be exercised if we wish for the church to grow! Please read **II Thessalonians 3:6, 14-15**. *"Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us...And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed. Yet count him not as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother."* No, this is not an option. It is something that must be done in order to please God, and encourage growth!

The Early Church Grew Because Of Their Stand For The Truth.

Please notice that theirs was a daily stand for the truth (**Acts 2:42; 5:42**). Seeing that these people stood for the truth daily, the church grew daily! In **Acts 4:1-3**, we read, *"And as they spake unto the people, the priests, and the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees, came upon them, Being grieved that they taught the people, and preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead. And they laid hands on them, and put them in hold unto the next day: for it was now eventide."* Here is a time of adversity and problems. The Sadducees, priests, and captain of the temple were trying to stop the preaching of

Christian Outlaws

By Jonathan L. Perz

Many dismiss concerns about having authority for all that we say and do as Christians as mere legalism. They belittle these concerns as Pharisaical, nitpicky and anti-theological to grace. While they mean the phrase “legalist” in a derogatory sense, in a non-derogatory sense, wouldn’t one not a “legalist” be an “illegalist”—hence, a Christian outlaw?

Contrary to the idea of being a “legalist,” Jesus Himself recognized the importance of speaking and acting with authority. He says, *"For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak. And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak"* (**John 12:48-50**). If the Lord saw the need to demonstrate the authority for His words and actions, should we not also see that need?

Peter and John. Please notice what happened next, *"Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand"* (**Acts 4:4**). These men did not back down, and the church grew! Later on, the people prayed to God about the problems that were upon them. Please notice their attitude in this prayer, *"And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word"* (**Acts 4:29**). Does this sound like they were going to compromise their beliefs to “get along”? Certainly not!

Conclusion

Because these things were a part of the early church, we see the church growing by 3000, 5000, and multitudes with a great number of the priests (**Acts 2:47, 4:4, 5:14, 6:1, 7**). This growth occurred because these people believed and obeyed God, and then God blessed them (**1 Cor. 3:6**).

Do you want this church to grow? It takes hard work and putting these principles we have studied into practice. Thankfully, when the spiritual growth occurs, so also physical growth will follow. This is the proper order; spiritual then physical growth! Let us not be like the Hebrews who should have been teachers and were not. Let us be as the Thessalonians who *"sounded out the word of the Lord"* (**1 Thess. 1:8**). *Credit: www.southside-churchofchrist.com ♦*

Another classic contrast of acting with or without authority is seen in the following accounts. Prior to sending His twelve apostles out into the surrounding towns and cities to heal and preach, Jesus, *"gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases"* (**Luke 9:1**). They successfully went out healing, preaching and casting out demons (**Luke 9:6, 10**).

In another account, we read about that, *"some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists took it upon themselves to call the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, 'We exorcise you by the Jesus whom Paul preaches.' Also there were seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, who did so."* The text goes on to say, *"And the evil spirit answered and said, 'Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?' Then the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, overpowered them, and*

Continued on Page Four