

Continued from Page Three, "The Unity Of The Church"

But "charity begins at home" (Cf. I Tim. 5:4). We cannot, with good grace, preach unity and practice division. "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment" (I Cor. 1:10). Paul's beseechment should not only be our preaching, but also our practice. The unity of Christians is the only hope of bringing the world to Christ. Jesus knew it, and therefore prayed that, "they all may be one, as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us" (Jn. 17:21).  
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### What Do I Owe My Congregation?

Author unknown

**I owe it my loyalty.** I must help carry out every good work it undertakes. I should help other congregations in special efforts, but I should not neglect my home congregation. I owe it my dependability. I am depending on it for many things it does in my behalf. It is not fair and right for me to depend on it and not be such that it cannot depend on me.

**I owe it my financial support.** It takes money to operate the church and preach the gospel. I am responsible to the Lord to give as He has prospered me. My home congregation has first call on my financial ability, for if the members of the church do not support the work of the home congregation, it will not be supported. The expenses go on whether I am there or not, so I should make up my contribution when absent.

**I owe it my presence.** If everyone stayed home there would be no worship of God. I am responsible as anyone to attend all of my congregation's services. I must not be a parasite.

**I owe it the influence of a godly life.** The life I live either helps others to obey the gospel or makes it the harder for them. How I live affects the work of the church and the salvation of the lost. I should live in such a way that my life will be blessing to others. ♦

### 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

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#### How to Contact Us

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 Green Bay, WI 54313

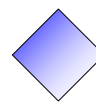


#### Schedule of Assembly

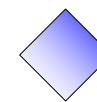
Bible Study: Sunday, 9:00am  
 Worship Service: Sunday, 10:00am  
 Bible Study: Wednesday, 7:00pm\*

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

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# The Voice of Truth



September 18, 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.

are lost.

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

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 children of God, (even) to them that believe on his name."

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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 baptized 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! ♦

### What Is Truth? By David Padfield

In the eighteenth chapter of John, Christ stood before Pontius Pilate to answer charges of insurrection. Pilate, the governor of Judea, asked Christ if he was the King of the Jews. Christ answered by saying His kingdom was not of this world. Pilate then asked if He was a King. Jesus responded in **John 18:37** by saying, "*You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I came into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears my voice.*" Pilate, provoked by this response, replied, "*What is truth?*" (**John 18:38**). Then Pilate, thinking his last question was unanswerable, departed from the presence of Christ.

More than 1900 years after the question was first asked, many people have not found the answer. We would like to suggest a few.

#### God's Word Is Truth

A few hours before His death Christ prayed to His Father. In **John 17:17** He said, "*Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.*" The sole source of religious truth is the word of God. Religious truth will never find its source in the creeds, catechisms and church manuals written by men.

#### Truth Is Valuable

**Proverbs 23:23** says, "*Buy the truth and sell it not.*" The value of religious truth can be seen in **John 8:32**, "*You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.*" All men are held in bondage to sin until they are set free by the gospel.

#### Truth Is Narrow

In mathematics there can only be one correct answer to any given problem. The same is true in religion. Sincerity alone is not enough (**Matthew 7:21-23**). Many people teach that it doesn't matter what you believe as long as you are sincere. The fallacy of this idea can be shown by the following statement: If it does not make any difference what you believe about Christ, then it can not make any difference if you believe in Christ. If it does not make any difference what you believe about how men are saved, then it can not make any difference if you believe anything about salvation. Will anyone deny it? The same could be said of the church and of God Himself!

#### Truth Is Binding

When a religiously honest man sees that he is mistaken, he ceases to be one of two things: either he ceases to be honest or he ceases to be mistaken. He cannot remain in error and retain his honesty. Many religious people have remarked, "Well, I don't believe everything my church teaches." If the church of which you are a member is in error, then you are obligated to either change that church or get out. Truth can have no fellowship with error. We must not give aid to any false teacher (**2 John 9-11**).

#### Truth Will Judge

In the resurrection day, you will not be judged by what your mother believed, what your father taught you or by what everyone else was doing at the time. You will be

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judged by the words of Christ (**John 12:48**). What you know about the truth and your reaction to it will determine what He will say to you on that final day. If we can be of

### "The Unity Of The Church" By Foy E. Wallace, Jr. (1896-1979)

The book of Psalms has been appropriately called the "hymn book of the Bible." There are more than twenty-five hundred verses in its one hundred and fifty chapters, and doubtless that many songs have been composed from them through the centuries and millennia since their sentiments swelled the bosom of Israel's sweet singer. Many of these verses were chanted in the worship of the early Christians, and they will be sung in every generation wherever people are found worshipping God until we learn the "new song" in Heaven, "when all the redeemed singers get home."

To rob our modern productions of the sentiments and psalms of David would be, indeed, to impoverish our worship of praise.

#### A Song Of Unity

**Psalms 133** is a song of unity. "*Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!*" There is nothing more stifling and stultifying to the emotions of the soul than strife and division. There is nothing more soothing and benefacious to the spirit than peace and unity.

Unity among brethren is like, "*the precious ointment upon the head*" in the psalmist's refrain. The Easterns perfumed with fragrant oil. Unity perfumes the church and sweetens the atmosphere like the precious oil, "*that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments*" (**v. 2**).

#### The Unity Of The Spirit

Exhorting the brethren to "*keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace*" Paul outlines, in **Ephesians 4:4-6**, the basis of unity. "*There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.*" The "*unity of the Spirit*" is the unity the Spirit teaches, or results when the Spirit's word is obeyed.

There is one God – unity in worship. A divided worship

assistance to you in your search for the truth, please contact us. If you do have a Bible, we would be happy to provide you with one. *Credit: www.padfield.com* ♦

cannot be rendered "*in spirit and in truth*" (**Jn. 4:24**). Wherever and whenever rendered, true worship must have the two elements – the right spirit and the right act; for God is one, and "seeketh us to be his worshippers" (**Cf. Jn. 4:23**).

There is one Lord – unity in authority. Human authority in religion is wrong (**Jer. 10:23**). Christ is Lord and His word only is authority (**Col. 3:17**).

There is one faith – unity in message. The Spirit, which guides "into all truth" does not impart conflicting messages. The gospel promotes unity; and where there is division, something else has been preached.

There is one baptism – unity in practice. "Modes of baptism"?? We might as well talk about shades of white. There is no such thing.

There is one body – unity in organization. The church is one body. It is impossible to have "spiritual" unity and "organic" division. Unity is both spiritual and organic.

There is one Spirit and one hope – unity in life, in desire and expectation.

Thus Paul outlines the only basis of unity. Let the world cease their efforts toward amalgamations, federations, alliances, and unions, and adopt the divine standard and basis of unity – oneness in Christ.

#### The Prayer For Unity

The Lord's prayer in **John 17:1-21** was an ardent petition for unity. "*May they all be one.*" Jesus praying for the unity of believers! Yet, it has not touched the heart of those who are promoting denominationalism in the world, nor even of brethren who sow discord and factions in the church. Denominationalism is the misrepresentation of Christianity – a horrid caricature – and the authors of perversions in religion are enemies of Christ; professing and even honestly thinking themselves to be his friends.

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