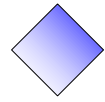


The Voice of Truth



August 4, 2013

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 (**1 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 away 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: 12**). 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

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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 by 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! ♦

"Another Day Of Infamy"

By Jarrod Jacobs

Last week (6/25/13), Americans were met with the news that The Supreme Court Of The United States has "legislated" from the bench again. Their 5-4 ruling was that section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act, which did not allow "same-sex" couples government benefits, was "unconstitutional". Such a ruling seems "par for the course", since in the past several years our civil leaders seem to do their best to rule in ways that are opposed to the Bible. Our civil leaders have consistently ruled in opposition to the Bible in the last century or so. Further, this nation is not unique in the world concerning such actions! I say this not as a virtue, but in shame. A nation who was once known for upholding Biblical principles is successfully moving away from the principles that made it great.

Before someone says, "We have separation of church and state in this country, so we ought not mix politics and religion"; let us be reminded that such a statement is never found in our Constitution nor Declaration of Independence. Our Constitution forbids Congress from establishing a "state religion" as England and other countries have. Our Constitution, however, does not forbid civil leaders, or anyone else, from expressing religious convictions publicly or privately!

With this in mind, let the leaders of our country and its citizens be reminded that God has condemned homosexuality from Genesis through Revelation. How can folks who claim to believe in God and the Bible say otherwise? God showed His hatred for homosexual acts when He destroyed Sodom, Gomorrah, and the other cities of the plain (**Gen. 19**). Homosexual sins were consistently forbidden and condemned throughout the Old Law. In the New Testament, we see the same thing being taught (**Matt. 19:4-6; Rom. 1:26-27; I Cor. 6:9-11; Gal. 5:19-21**; etc.). Thus, when a country has legislators (or jurists acting like legislators) who treat homosexual sins as a "right", then something is WRONG! Further, rest assured, God will not allow such actions to go unpunished. (See: **Dan. 4-5**)

Remember the words of the Lord: "*Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people*" (**Prov. 14:34**). Yet, in the current political climate, instead of leaders bowing their heads and asking God for forgiveness, we have a civil government who encourages homosexual behavior (and other sinful acts) by bowing to those who practice it! (**Rom. 1:32**)

Is homosexuality the only sin that has been "legalized"?

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No! Drinking alcohol, gambling, abortions (murder of unborn children), prostitution, fornication, adultery, divorce for any cause, and numerous other sins have been "legalized" in the last century. The sin of homosexuality is simply the "latest" sin being justified by civil leaders.

What can Christians do in a situation where our leaders rule in opposition to God? 1) **Pray to God** for help (**Jas. 5:16; I Pet. 5:7**). Pray also for our civil leaders that they will see the error of their ways and repent (**I Tim. 2:1-2**). 2) **Teach our children** what is right. Homosexuality, like all other sins, is learned behavior (**Jas. 1:14-15**). It isn't "genetic", as some claim, for God says repent of it! (**I Cor.**

6:9-11) Let us teach our children God's laws for marriage (**Matt. 19:4-6; I Cor. 7:2; Heb. 13:4**). Let us show them God's ways of living while they are at home with us (**Eph. 6:4; Prov. 22:6**). 3) **Speak up when we can**. This country still has freedom of speech for the time being. Let us use our freedom to speak up for God's way, regardless of the sin (**II Tim. 4:2, 2:2; II Pet. 1:12-15**; etc.)! Express your disagreement with the elected officials as well. Let them know that there is a "voter block" who cares for God's ways of ruling. Who knows but the people you speak to can be convinced and converted to the Lord's ways on this subject and other subjects before it is too late (**Est. 4:14**).

Credit: The Old Paths - 6/30/13 ♦

The "One Faith" Of The Gospel By Jonathan L. Perz

"Of what faith are you?"

The very question contradicts its Biblical answer. The Bible plainly says there is only "one faith" and that we are to "all come in the unity of" it (**Ephesians 4:3-6, 13**—please read it for yourself).

Paul admonished the Philippians to be of "one mind striving together for *the faith* of the gospel..." (**Philippians 1:27**). Jude exhorted that we "contend earnestly for *the faith* which was once for all delivered to the saints" (**Jude 3**). Paul and Barnabas exhorted the disciples "to continue in *the faith*" (**Acts 14:22**). The Corinthians were told to "stand fast in *the faith*" (**1 Corinthians 16:13**). This is "the mutual faith" that Paul shared with the Romans (Romans 1:12) and the "like precious faith" that Peter spoke of (**2 Peter 1:1**).

The Colossians who had received Jesus Christ, were to "walk ye in Him: rooted and built up in Him, and established in *the faith*, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving." Regarding the faith, Paul also warned them to "Beware lest any spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ" (**Colossians 2:6-8**).

The Spirit promised, "that in the latter times some shall depart from *the faith*" (**1 Timothy 4:1**). We can read of others who had already "erred concerning *the faith*" (**1 Timothy 6:10, 21**). This is why Titus was told to rebuke some sharply "that they be sound in *the faith*" (**Titus 1:13**).

All of this serves as evidence that there is only "one faith and emphasizes the importance of "the faith of the gospel" (**Philippians 1:27**). What is the source of this *one faith*? No writer on earth can better express the answer to this question than "the author and finisher of our faith"—Jesus Christ (**Hebrews 12:2**).

The source of this "one faith" is not the pulpit of your church (unfortunately, the Bible does not always agree with the preacher—note the wisdom of **Acts 17:11-12**). The source of this "one faith" is not what makes you feel good (sin is often pleasurable and continuing in the faith sometimes means trials and tribulations—read **Hebrews 11:25** and **Acts 14:22**). This "one faith" is not found within the creed books of denominations (these teach for doctrines the commandments of men—read **Matthew 15:8-9**). Rather, it is written, "Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God" (**Romans 10:17**).

Does your faith come from the Gospel of Jesus Christ? Paul stated that preaching any other gospel would result in being accursed (read **Galatians 1:6-9**)? Therefore, he preached "the faith" (**Galatians 1:23**)—the only authority he kept and lived by (read **Galatians 2:20** and **2 Timothy 4:7**). Which "modern-day denomination" (i.e., faith) was Paul describing? With many different churches teaching many different faiths (i.e., doctrines—**2 John 9-11**) regarding salvation, the church, worship practices, the second coming, etc., it is essential to "examine yourselves and see whether you are in *the faith*" (**2 Corinthians 13:5**).

Clearly, there is no other faith that saves besides the one found within the pages of God's word. We all accept

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only "one faith," seek after it, and accept no substitutes that there is only "one Lord" and "one Spirit" and "one God" (Ephesians 4:3-6). Why not also accept that there is for it (read Matthew 6:33; 7:7-8)? ♦

The church of Christ

Has:

- One Builder – Jesus Christ (Matt. 16:18; Eph. 3:9-11)
- One Purchaser – Jesus Christ (Acts 20:28)
- One Head – Jesus Christ (Eph. 1:22-23)
- One Savior – Jesus Christ (Eph. 5:23)
- One destiny – eternal salvation (Eph. 5:23)

IS:

- The spiritual body of Christ (Eph. 1:22-23; 5:23)
- The kingdom of Christ (Matt. 16:18-19; Heb. 12:28)
- The depository of those saved (Acts 2:47)
- One body, not many bodies (Eph. 4:4; 1:22-23)
- One way to be added to the church:
- One must believeth that Christ is the Son of God (Jno. 8:24)
- One must repent of sins (Lk. 13:3)
- One must confess that Christ is the Son of God (Rom. 10:9-10)
- One must be baptized into Christ (Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; Gal. 3:26-27) ♦

GOD HAS A RIGHT

Author unknown

- God has a right to a definite part of your time
 - He has the power to take all of it.
- God has a right to a definite part of your money
 - He has the power to take all of it.
- God has a right to be glorified through your tongue
 - He has the power to take all of it.
- God has a right to be honored through your influence
 - He has the power to take all of it.
- God has a right to your life
 - He has the power to take all of it. ♦

*Truth is truth even if no one believes it.
Error is error if everyone believes it. ♦*

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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