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DOES SALVATION COME BY FAITH ONLY?

Many people believe that all you have to do to be saved is believe in Jesus as the Son of God. This simply is not true! It is a false doctrine that is clearly refuted in the Bible. James 2:14-26 destroys the doctrine of *"salvation by faith only."* James makes the statement in verse 24: *"Ye see then how that by works a man is justified by works, and not by faith only."* Furthermore, Jesus said the following in Matthew 7:21: *"Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven."* If salvation comes by faith only, then why isn't the devil saved? According to James 2:19 Satan believes in God? The truth is that salvation comes only through an *"obedient faith in Jesus Christ as the Son of God."* According to Hebrews 5:9 Jesus is the *"author of eternal salvation unto all that obey Him."* If you carefully read John 1:11-12, you will learn that believing in Jesus only gives a person the right to become a child of God; it does not make a person a child of God within itself. Don't be fooled by this false doctrine. Jesus said in Mark 16:16 *"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."* Just do what Jesus says in this verse and you will be saved! From cover to cover the Bible has always taught that the only kind of faith that has ever saved anyone is an *"obedient faith."* And this is still true today!

THE FAITH THAT SAVES IS THE FAITH THAT
OBEYS!

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S BIBLE QUESTIONS:

Manasseh is the king of Judah who reigned longer than any other king of Judah. He reigned 55 years in Jerusalem and began his reign at the age of twelve. (2nd Kings 21:1/He reigned from 697-642 B.C.)

Elymas is the sorcerer who tried to turn Sergius Paulus, the deputy of Paphos, away from the faith. Barnabas and Paul were trying to teach the gospel to this man. Elymas was blinded on this occasion.

Last month we also gave a riddle for you to figure out. Here is the riddle and the answer as well. ***"What is greater than God, more evil than the devil, the poor have it, the rich need it, and if you eat it, you will die?"*** The answer is ***"Nothing!"***

QUESTIONS FOR THIS MONTH:

What king of Judah was stricken with leprosy because he broke the law of God? (How did he violate the law of God?)

What soldier of Syria had his leprosy taken away when he obeyed the instructions of God? (What did he do to have his leprosy taken away?)

MAKING A CORRECTION FROM LAST MONTH'S BULLETIN!

It was called to my attention by one of our readers that in last month's bulletin I misquoted John 3:16. I went back and checked and the reader was correct. In this verse the scripture says ***"should not perish"*** instead of ***"shall not perish."*** The reader is correct when he says this could possibly give a wrong impression about the issue of salvation. Here is the correct reading of John 3:16: ***"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him SHOULD not perish, but have everlasting life."*** The word ***"shall"*** in place of the word ***"should"*** could give the impression that ***"salvation comes by faith only"*** as well as ***"once saved, always saved."*** Neither of these doctrines is true, and both of these doctrines are being refuted in this issue of the bulletin. I apologize to the readers of this bulletin for that mistake and thank the reader from Louisiana for calling this mistake to my attention.

IS THE DOCTRINE OF "ONCE SAVED, ALWAYS SAVED" TRUE?

Although this doctrine is very popular in many religious organizations, it is not taught in the scriptures anywhere. As a matter of fact, the scriptures so clearly refute this doctrine that it is difficult to understand why so many people believe it to be true. First of all it is not an issue of what happens to faithful Christians when they die. Faithful Christians will always go to heaven when they die. (Revelations 2:10) However, the doctrine of **"once saved, always saved"** teaches that unfaithful Christians will also go to heaven as well. This is said because when Christians sin, their sins are not held against them, but are automatically forgiven because of the death of Christ and the shedding of His blood. None of this is taught in the scriptures anywhere. Consider on the other hand what Peter says in 2nd Peter 2:20-22: **"For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire."** Hebrews 10:39 says this: **"But we are not of them that draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul."** The Bible clearly teaches that faithful Christians will indeed go to heaven, but that Christians who become unfaithful to God will lose their salvation! Paul said this in 1st Corinthians 10:12: **"Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall."** Why sound this warning if Christians cannot fall? As an example of someone who fell away from God, consider what Acts 1:25 says about Judas: **"...that he may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place."** Over and over again the scriptures emphatically disprove the doctrine of **"once saved, always saved."**

As so as Christians we need to be forewarned. It is possible for a Christian to lose his or her salvation. That is why the Bible gives us warnings about falling away. And that is why the Bible tells us as Christians that we must **"Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life."** (Revelations 2:10) Don't take your salvation for granted! Live each day of your life in faithful service to God and heaven will be your home in that world which is to come! (Mark 10:30)