

The Oologah Informer

August 24th , 2014

Is “Faith Only” a Biblical Concept? Toney Smith

Address

13800 S. 4080 Rd on Hwy 169
South of Oologah
P.O. Box 527
Oologah, OK 74053
918-443-2025

www.oologahcofc.org
oologahcofc@oologahcofc.org
facebook.com/oologahchurchofchrist

Service Times

Sunday

Bible Class: 9:30 A.M.
Worship: 10:30 A.M. & 5 P.M.

Wednesday

Bible Study: 7 P.M.

Preacher:

Russ Earl

AM Sermon:

So You Love Jesus...
(Luke 6:46-49)

PM Sermon:

Pride (Isaiah 2:11-12)

Sunday AM Bible Class:

The book of Joshua – D. Jackson

Wednesday Bible Class:

Summer Series – Dan Fredman

In SEARCH of the Lord’s Way

Tulsa KWHB TV 47
Sunday mornings at 7:30am

Radio Program

“The Minister’s View” on
KTTRadio.org on Tuesday’s at 9
am.

Faith is an important and essential part in the life of one who seeks to be saved. Without faith, it is impossible to please God. (Hebrews 11:6) To see the necessity of faith, one needs only to look at the “honor roll” of faith found in Hebrews 11. Every individual mentioned in this chapter found favor in God’s eyes because their lives were directed by Biblical faith. Notice “By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house” (Hebrews 11:7). It was by faith that he moved (took appropriate action).

Faith is defined as persuasion, credence, conviction and reliance. It is the system of religious truth itself, assurance, belief and fidelity. The Bible defines faith as “the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1). And, faith is produced by the word of God (Romans 10:17).

“Faith only” is a doctrine that gives the hope of salvation apart from action on man’s part. This precept is foreign to Bible teachings concerning the faith that really saves. Many teach that man cannot do anything in the process of saving the soul. Some preachers will say “faith only is a most wholesome doctrine and full of comfort.” How sad it is that some never investigate this unfounded claim. In fact, the Bible uses the term “faith only” just one time, and that is in the negative. Scripture says “Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only” (James 2:24). There is a great deal of difference in being saved by faith and being saved by faith alone. We are saved by faith but not faith alone! If one is saved by “faith only,” then grace would be excluded. When a person teaches salvation by “faith only,” he excludes everything else but being saved by faith. The truth of the matter is, the Bible teaches there are several elements involved in man’s salvation. Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord (Genesis 6:8); yet was required to build an ark to the saving of his house (Genesis 6:14-16; Hebrews 11:7). Both elements were necessary to bring about the saving of Noah and his family.

There are those who cite Ephesians 2:8-9 and Romans 11:6 as proof that salvation does not come by any work that we might do. However, these passages teach that there are works that we must do! Verse 10 of Ephesians 2 states Christians are “... created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.” The “works” forbidden are works of man’s own invention. We are not saved by those, yet we are to be involved and obedient to the works which God has ordained (2 Timothy 3:16- 17). We are to abound unto every good work (2 Corinthians 9:8). And we are to provoke one another unto love and good works (Hebrews 10:24). We are to be fruitful in good works (Colossians 1:10), and we are to be ready to accomplish every good work (Titus 3:1).

The teaching that requires faith and obedience is the doctrine of the Bible. The doctrine of “faith only” is condemned in the clear statement from Jesus Christ when He said, “And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things

which I say?" (Luke 6:46) Jesus often taught the necessity of believing and obeying, "Not every one 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." (Matthew 7:21) We can see that saving faith consists of believing and acting upon that belief.

Many will say, "But we are all saved by the blood of Jesus Christ, and if one work is added, it cancels the salvation by blood." They think that baptism is a work which cancels out salvation by His blood. However, Jesus Himself stated, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned" (Mark 16:16). Baptism was not devised from the minds of men. It is a work ordained of God and is required. We come to salvation by it. "The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 3:21). Peter added works (repentance and baptism) in Acts 2:38; John added obedience in 1 John 2:3; and Jesus declared His friends to be those who do whatsoever He commanded in John 15:14. No, "faith only" is not a wholesome and soul saving doctrine. Salvation is accomplished by hearing God's word, believing God's word and obeying God's word.

Please keep this in mind when considering the "faith only" doctrine, "He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily, is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him" (1 John 2:4-5). How can one who believes and practices the "faith only" doctrine be saved? Is "faith only" an approved Biblical doctrine?