

# "What kind of FAITH is Required for SALVATION?"

*Do you know millions who actually believe in Jesus Christ have no salvation at all...because they trust in the wrong kind of faith?*

**No subject** pertaining to Christian salvation is more generally misunderstood than that of *saving faith!*

Just "**believe** in the lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved;' is the popular teaching today. And that statement is absolutely true—if you understand what kind of **believing** is required!

Unfortunately millions are being deceived—led to trust in a faith that will never save one single soul by a very popular and very false teaching.

It is customary to quote only a **part** of the scriptures on this subject—reading a false meaning into them—and thus by subtle *half-truths* popular teachings shackle most of Christendom to spiritual blindness and deceptions.

## Do These Scriptures Contradict?

God does not usually reveal *all* the truth respecting a particular subject in any one passage alone. "Whom shall he teach knowledge? And whom shall he make to understand doctrine? . . . Precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little and there a little." (Isa. 28:9-10). To understand any general subject in the bible, it is necessary to view *all* the scriptural evidence touching that particular subject. And we cannot read *our* inherited or desired meaning into any particular passage; for "no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation," (ii pet. 1:20), but each passage is interpreted by, and in the light of, *other texts*.

For example. It is quite popular to quote Romans 3:20: "therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight," and from this passage alone assume that salvation comes by faith in *disobedience to God's law!* Those who thus interpret this passage never tell you that in Romans 2:13 the same apostle Paul was inspired to write: "not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the *doers of the law shall be justified.*"

Is there contradiction here? If the one scripture is intended to reveal that we do not have to make an effort to obey God's law to be justified and then saved—but that we are *saved* by faith *without obedience to God's law*, then, indeed, God contradicts himself in his word! And if you wish to make Romans 3:20 say that, you must consistently acknowledge there is contradiction in the scriptures; and if this be true, you have no basis for your faith!

Again, Ephesians 2:8-9: "by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of

yourselves: it is the gift of God: *not of works*, lest any man should boast." but those who quote this text so freely to teach the doctrine of "no works," never tell you that the same inspired scriptures say also:

"what doth it profit, my brethren, though a man *say* he hath faith, *and have not works*? Can faith save him? . . . Even so **faith**, *if it hath not works*, is **dead**, being alone... I will show thee *my faith by* my works. Thou **believest** that there is one God; thou doest well: *the devils also believe, and tremble*. But wilt thou know, o vain man, that faith *without works is dead*." (James 2:14-20)  
there is no contradiction here!

Rather, by putting all the scriptures on the subject of "saving faith" together, we learn that there are **two kinds** of faith. And the kind so blindly trusted in by the majority of this day is nothing but a **dead** faith—and a **dead faith never will save one soul!** Notice! Jas. 2:20. "Faith *without works* is **dead**"—just a **dead** faith. James continues: "was not Abraham our father **justified by works**, when he offered Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how **faith** wrought *with his works*, and **by works** was faith made perfect? . . . You see then how that **by works a man is justified**, and not by faith only?" (James 2:21-24). Then are we saved by works *instead* of faith? No, **never!** We are saved by **faith!** But faith wrought *with our works* and **by works**, our **faith is made perfect!** That is **living faith!**

Why do we even *need* salvation? Because we have **sinned**, and the penalty of sin is **death!**

But *how* have we sinned? What **is** sin, any how? "sin is the transgression of **the law**," is God's answer (I John 3:4).

"Yes," answers the victim of modern fables, "but we are not under the law today, but **under grace!**" why certainly! "What then?" asks the inspired Paul, "shall we **sin**"—(transgress the **law**) — 'because we are not under the law but under grace?' and Paul's answer is, "**God forbid!**" (Rom. 6:15). And again, "shall we continue in **sin**" —(transgressing the law) — "that grace may abound? **God forbid!** How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? (Romans 6:1-2)

the law has a penalty—**death**. It claims the life of the one who transgresses it. The law has power to take the life of the transgressor. It therefore is more powerful than the sinner—and is **over** the sinner, holding a claim on his life. It is the **sinner** who is **under** the law. But when the sinner **repents** of his transgression, and accepts the sacrifice of Christ as payment of the *penalty* of the law, then he is **pardoned—under grace**—the law no longer stands **over** him claiming his life. It is those who are sinning that are **under** the law! And those who, thru repentance, obedience and **faith** have turned from disobedience and are, thru faith, **keeping** the law, are the only ones who are **under grace!**

## God's Spiritual Mirror

Let us understand it! "By the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight." no, certainly not! That scripture is 100% true, and there is no contradiction! You cannot be justified by the deeds of the law—not at all!

**Why?** The last half of this same verse gives the answer—why do most preachers

never quote it? "For by the law is the **knowledge** of sin" (Rom 3:20). **That's why!** The purpose of the law is not to forgive, to justify, to wash away, to cleanse. Only **the blood of Christ** can do that! Sin is the transgression of the law— that's what sin is. The purpose of the law is to tell us what sin is—to define it—to **reveal** it, so we can quit it.

All women ought to understand this. In every woman's handbag is a little mirror. She knows what it is for. Every little while she takes out this mirror and steals a glance at her face. Sometimes it reveals a speck of dirt. And we might truthfully say, "by the use of these mirrors are no dirty faces washed clean." you women understand what we mean! But do you throw your mirrors away because *by them* your faces are not washed? Of course not—what a silly question it seems, when applied to a **material** case! And if we ask you **why** your faces are not washed clean by your mirrors, you answer: "because by the mirror comes the **knowledge of the dirt.**"

God's **law** is his spiritual mirror. We look into it, and see the dirt on our hearts! But by looking at the law, or keeping it, no dirt is **washed** from our hearts — only Christ's **blood** can do that. By the law comes the **knowledge of sin!**

Listen to James explain it! "But be ye **doers of** the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: for he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into perfect **law** of liberty, and *continueth therein*, he being not a forgetful hearer but a **doer** of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed" (James 1:22-25).

## Is It Possible to Keep the Law?

But argues the "no law" deceiver, "no man can keep the commandments, it is not humanly possible. Since **faith** has come, we keep no law—faith has made it **void.**" Thus even "Satan himself is transferred into an angel of **light**. Therefore it is no great thing if **his ministers** also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness—for such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of **Christ**" (II Cor. 11:13-15).

"Do we then make void the law through faith'?" comes the question, in inspired scripture—and the answer: "**God forbid:** yea, we **establish the law!**" (Rom. 3:3 1).

Yes, faith *establishes* the law! By keeping it is faith made **perfect!**

Yet, *can* we keep the commandments? Is it possible? Satan's "no law" deceivers say **no!** What is the **plain truth?**

A man came to Jesus and asked how to be saved. The savior himself replied, "if thou wilt enter into life, **keep the commandments**" (Mat. 19:17). "when his disciples heard it, they were exceedingly amazed, saying, 'who then can be saved?' but Jesus beheld them and said unto them, 'with men this is impossible; but *with God, all things are possible*' (verses 25-26)

there is Christ's own answer! With men it is impossible,—utterly impossible to

really **keep** his commandments. But—here's the blessed truth— **with God**, it is possible, even to keep his commandments. Do you begin to see it? **It takes faith!** Faith in the power of **God!** And, just as your own diligent effort coupled with faith makes faith perfect, so faith coupled with your effort makes **perfect obedience!** The two go hand in hand. And you cannot have the one, without the other! **A living faith**—the only kind that will **save**—is an *active* faith—one that **trusts God** to make it possible to **obey him**—to live the true Christian life—to **keep** his blessed commandments! Think! Could a just God command men to do what it is **impossible** to do? Or can we conceive of Jesus as a smart-aleck young man who knew more than his **father**, and who did away with his father's **commandments**? How absurd! Yet this is the popular conception today!

## The Law is Eternal

God's law is not a horrible monster! Just and right laws are a tenor only to the criminal—they are made to **protect** the good! God's law is **perfect** (Psalm 19:7), it is a **spiritual** law, (rom. 7:14), **holy**, and just, and good (Rom. 7:12). **All** his commandments are **sure**, and stand fast **forever and ever** (Psalm 111:7-8). Don't you believe it, when men tell you differently!

God's law is, simply, **love!** It is the perfect way of life. Every particle of human suffering, unhappiness, misery and death has come solely from its transgression! It was given to make man **happy**, and is the only philosophy of life that can do so! It came from a God of **love**, and **love** is the *fulfilling of the law!*

But not **your** own natural love! It requires "the love of **God**, shed abroad in our hearts **by the holy ghost**" (Rom. 5:5). God has, and will give you the love that will fulfill his law. And so, praise his blessed name!—it is possible, through **faith**, and the **gift** of God's holy spirit, for man to keep his commandments! And whoever claims differently, God calls a plain **liar** (I John 2:4).

The true commandment-keeper is forced to trust God to make obedience possible. And thus faith does not void, but *establishes* the law! And to keep the law requires **faith!**

A thrilling example of this eternal truth is recorded in the book of Daniel.

Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, erected a great golden image.

"Then an herald cried aloud, to you it is commanded, O people, nations, and languages," that at the time ye hear the sound of the band, "ye fall down and worship the golden image" (Dan. 3:4-5). "And whoso falleth not down and worshippeth shall the same hour be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace." (verse 6).

Set over the affairs of the province of Babylon were Daniel's three young Jewish friends, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. One of the commandments of God's eternal spiritual law forbids such worship of images.

Had *you* been in their place, what would **you** have done? Would you not have said, "well, I *have* to bow down to this image—I have to do it or be killed!" and perhaps you would have excused yourself by reasoning thus: "I don't think God would be

fair if he punished me for this, when he knows I am **forced** to do it. Anyway, he tells us to be subject to the power of the state!" yes, it is easy to use reason to excuse disobedience to God. But God is not looking for chances to punish us—but rather for opportunities to **save** us thru faith! To save us from the folly of **sin** and the sad consequence our own acts impose! Whatever we sow we shall reap. God's law is intended to *protect* us from suffering. It is not **God** who punishes us when we do wrong, it is merely our own acts rebounding like a boomerang!

But these three young Jews knew the truth—that we should **obey God**. Rather than men—that thru **faith** God makes it possible. When they firmly **refused** to bow down to worship the king's image, Nebuchadnezzar in his rage and fury commanded them brought before him (verse 13).

Listen to the quiet, trusting, unafraid answer of these lads. "O Nebuchadnezzar,—our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace!" (verses 16-18)

sometimes God *tries* our faith. He tried theirs. You might think he failed them, but he only permitted their faith to be tested.

"then Nebuchadnezzar was full of fury, and the form of his visage was changed; . . . Therefore he spake, and commanded that they should heat the furnace one seven times more than it was wont to be heated—then these men were bound in their coats, their hosen, and their hats, and their other garments,"— surely the God whom they trusted would have them released *now*? But no—there was no physical evidence whatever that God so much as heard!— "and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace!" (verse 19-21)

the furnace was so hot the flames leaped out and "slew those men that took up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego." and they fell down "bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace!"

God permitted them actually to be thrown in! Was he unmindful of those who trusted in him to make possible the keeping of his commandments? Not God! The king looked into the furnace, and said "lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt: and the form of the fourth is like the son of **God**!" (verse 25). So Nebuchadnezzar came near the mouth of the furnace and called to them.

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego! Ye servants of the most high God, come forth, and come hither! Then Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came forth of the midst of the fire. . . . These men, upon whose bodies the fire had no power, nor was an hair of their head singed, neither were their coats changed, nor the smell of fire had passed on them. Then Nebuchadnezzar spake and said, blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who hath sent his angel, and **delivered** his servants that **trusted in him!**" (verses 26-18)

**there** was an example of *living faith*! A faith that **trusted** God to make it possible to live the way of his law! Yes, **with God**, it *is* possible to keep all his commandments—and don't let any man deceive you to the contrary!

## **Can You Believe and Worship Christ in Vain?**

When God's word says, "**believe** on the lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved," it does not mean the **dead** faith now popularly taught! Though common teachings of this day distort this to mean a mere belief in the **facts** of Christ's existence, his sacrifice, and his saving work. Just accept these **facts**, and accept **him**—without any obedience to God's laws! But the devils believe these things—and they **tremble!**

Christ was the messenger of the new covenant— messenger sent from God. You cannot **believe** on such a divine messenger, unless you believe, and obey the **message** that he brought! "If thou wilt enter into **life**," was his teaching, "**keep the commandments!**"

"**Repent**," said the inspired peter, and then believe and be baptized for the remission of sins, and "ye **shall** receive the gift of the holy ghost" (Acts 2:38). God gives his holy spirit only to them that **obey him** (Acts 5:32). And his holy spirit is the **love** which God gives us to fulfill and to keep his commandments! And it all comes **by faith!**

Christ came to save us **from**, not in, our sins! To **free** us from the enslavement of sin and the unhappiness and wretchedness it brings—not to make us free to commit sin!

Is it possible to **believe** in Christ—to worship him—in the customary manner of the day, *and yet be lost?* Christ himself says, "**yes!**"

"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," he said (Matt. 7:21).

Hear Him again!

"Howbeit **in vain** do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. For laying aside the commandments of God, ye hold the tradition of men!" (Mark 7:7-8).

There it is! From Jesus' own lips! Such a dead faith—such worship—is **in vain!** Those who trust in it, and in the men and denominations which teach it, **are lost!** And the quicker we come to realize it, the better!

God's **purpose** in salvation is to rescue men from **sin**, and its resulting unhappiness, misery, and death! To **repent** of sin is the first step! Then the **blood of Christ**, upon acceptance and faith, cleanses of all past sins. And by **faith** we are kept from sin in the future. Thus the resulting righteousness is of **faith**—the righteousness *imparted from God*.

We are not justified **by the law**—we are justified by the blood of Jesus Christ! But this justification will be given only on condition that we **repent** of our transgressions of God's law—and so it is, after all, only the **doers** of the law that shall be **justified** (Rom. 2:13).

How plain, and how beautiful is God's **truth!**