

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN

Salvation



& Service

BY DR. DAN ARBOGAST

SALVATION AND SERVICE

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THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SALVATION AND SERVICE

INTRODUCTION

The foundation for this book began over thirty years ago at Faith Baptist Church in Perry, Ohio.

It was at this time I heard the simple gospel presented by Dr. Max D. Younce. I had never heard the simple gospel before, even though I listened to many preachers.

I realized at that time how easy it is to have forgiveness of sin and eternal life.

I told myself if I ever had the opportunity to present the gospel I would never make it difficult for anyone to be saved.

2 Peter 3:15,16 And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation, even as our beloved brother, Paul, also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you;

As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.

Peter reminds the Jewish Christians of the wisdom given to Paul by the Holy Spirit and written in the Bible for all to read.

Peter reminds them of Paul writing to them, (Hebrews) and all his other epistles. (Scripture)

Peter declares that these writings are hard to be understood, but only for those who are unlearned and unstable. “which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do the other scriptures”

The word for wrest is the Greek word *strebloo*, and it means to pervert, wrench, and torture.

The unlearned and unstable, (those who are self righteous and Bible ignorant) will wrestle with and torture the Scripture until it is hardly recognizable.

We claim to believe in Ephesians 2:8,9 but we really do not.

Knowing the difference between salvation and service makes the Bible easy to understand.

Wrestling with the Scriptures is a waste of time and should be reserved for the unlearned and unstable.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SALVATION AND SERVICE

PART ONE WHAT IS THE GOSPEL

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.

John 6:47 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.

The word gospel is used in the New Testament over 100 times. It is translated from three Greek words.

Evangelion = a good message

Evangelizo = to announce good news

Proevangelizomai = to announce good news in advance. (used one time in Galatians 3:8)

The gospel, or the good news, is that Christ died, was buried, and rose again, for the forgiveness of sin to all who believe in Him. All anyone has to do is believe Christ died, was buried, and rose again, for their sins, and they have eternal life. Jesus Christ marks their sin debt paid when they believe in His finished work for forgiveness.

Throughout the gospels Jesus Christ declared He had to die and rise again.
(Matthew 12:38-40 26:32 28:6 John 2:19 3:14-17 12:31,32 and more)

Why would the Lord go to all that trouble? Because He loves His creation and wants humanity to have eternal life with Him. Therefore, He paid for the sins of man.

A perfect and just God took on flesh and blood and paid for the sins of the world.

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PART ONE WHAT IS THE GOSPEL

1 Timothy 1:15 This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.

*1 Timothy 2:5,6 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man, Christ Jesus,
Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.*

The Bible tells us all we have to do is believe in Him, the Lord Jesus Christ.
“whosoever believeth in me hath everlasting life.”

The word believe is translated from the Greek word *pisteuo*, and it means, *faith, trust, entrust, to give one credit for....*

All God expects of us is to put our trust in Him. Believing He died, was buried, and rose again, for us , is simply putting our trust in His payment for our sin.

Notice part of the meaning for the original Greek word is to give one credit for.

In Acts chapter ten verse 38 through 43 Peter gives the gospel. He states that Christ was hanged on a tree, (vs. 38) and rose again, (vs. 40) then in verse 43 Peter says....

Acts 10:43 To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.

Imagine that!! Remission of sins just by believing in the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ as payment for my sin.

In Acts chapter thirteen Paul makes the same statement. In verses 27 through 30 Paul states that Christ was slain, buried, and rose again.

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Then in verse 39 Paul states.....

Acts 13:39 And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.

Wow!! What a concept!! Faith in the finished work of Christ will forgive my sins.

The word believeth in Acts 10:43 and believe in Acts 13:39 are translated from the same Greek word used in the gospel of John. It is the word *pisteuo*, and we have already given the Greek definition. However, we need to give the Greek definition one more time.

(From the Greek/English dictionary... compiled by Prof. Karl Feyerabend, Ph.D. Printed by David McKay Co. copyright 1918

πιστευο = pisteuo = to believe, trust in, put faith in, confide in, to entrust, to give one credit for

Salvation, forgiveness of sin, eternal life is by simple faith in the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ, as payment for my sin. We give Him the credit. We have no right to take any credit for entering into heaven

Not Of Works

We all know how to quote Ephesians 2:8,9 and Titus 3:5 which tell us we cannot earn forgiveness and eternal life. It is a free gift. (Romans 6:23 Ephesians 2:8)

Why then, do we not really believe it?

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PART ONE WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

ETERNAL LIFE

Jesus said, "He that believeth on me hath everlasting life." Everlasting is a long time. Eternal is a long time.

When we believe Christ paid for our sin we have eternal life. We will die physically, yet because Jesus rose again, so will we. (Romans 4:24,25 8:23 1 Corinthians 15:2-22)

When a person trusts Jesus Christ as their Savior they are guaranteed eternal life by the Holy Spirit.

Baptism of the Holy Spirit

John the Baptist told Israel, "I indeed baptize you with water.....He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost...." (Matthew 3:11 Mark 1:8 Luke 3:16 John 1:33)

The word baptize means to immerse. When we believe in the gospel, Jesus Christ baptizes, immerses, us with the Holy Spirit.

Born again

Jesus said, "Ye must be born again." (John 3:3,5-7)

When we are saved by faith in Christ we are baptized by Jesus Christ with the Holy Spirit, which is born again. We are now born into the family of God. (2 Corinthians 5:17,18)

We still have our old nature, but we also have the new nature, which makes us part of the family of God.

The indwelling Holy Spirit

Jesus said the Holy Spirit, who would be sent by the Father after He ascended, would be in the believer, and it would be forever. (John 14:16,17 Acts 1:4,5

It is the same as the baptism of the Spirit, and born again.

Holy Spirit. (1 Corinthians 3:15-17 Ephesians 1:10-14 Ephesians 4:30)

CONCLUSION PART ONE

Christ died, was buried, and rose again, for the forgiveness of sin. Whosoever believes in Him has forgiveness of sin and eternal life.

Jesus Christ gives us the Holy Spirit when we trust Him as our Savior, and it is forever. Salvation is free and it is eternal.

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PART TWO FAITH AND WORKS

The gospel is that Christ died for our sins, according to the Scriptures, was buried, and rose again. All anyone has to do is believe Christ paid for their sin.

However, humanity, because of self righteousness, or Bible ignorance, or both, just cannot seem to get a grip on the simplicity of the gospel. For some reason we seem to think that is too simple and easy.

Instead of accepting the words of Christ, and all the authors of the Bible, divinely inspired by the Holy Spirit, we say there is more to it than that.

We say no! no!, that is too easy. Then we use idiotic terms in order to defend our position. Such terms as, "that is easy believeism," or, "you must believe with your heart, not your head."

Did Jesus Lie?

The fact is, when we say faith in Jesus Christ is not enough, we are calling Him, and the Holy Spirit liars. After all, Jesus Christ the Lord is the Word, and the Bible was divinely inspired by the Holy Spirit.

In the rest of this Bible study we are going to show how the gospel is perverted by man's ignorance. He thinks he is doing the right thing, but he really is not.

Galatians 1:6-9 I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel,

Which is not another; but there are some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.

But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.

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As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

The church at Galatia began with the simple gospel. It was believe on the finished work of Christ. He died, was buried, and rose again, for the forgiveness of sin. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved.

However, it was not long until the false prophets arrived on the scene with a false message. No! no! they would say, that is just to simple, you must prove you are saved by some action. You must add some kind of a work or you are not really saved. (read Galatians 3:1-5)

The Greek word for accursed is *anathema*, and it basically means *to direct a woe to God for destruction*. In other words, to curse oneself with a curse.

Therefore, if I preach any other gospel, I am directing a woe unto myself from God.

Faith Pleases God

Many people seem to think that if they do something besides believe in Christ, they are pleasing God.

Hebrews 11:5,6 By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death, and was not found, because God had translated him; for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

But without faith it is impossible to please him; for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Faith is what pleases God. Faith in the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus Christ the Lord, is what saves us and pleases God.

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The problem is we cannot **separate** salvation from service. Salvation is a free gift. My service to Christ is **what** I do after I am saved.

Mixing salvation **with** service makes salvation a works righteousness, which does not work.

Wrong Judgment

Because we mix salvation with service we make improper judgment. We look at a persons outward appearance, or their lifestyle, or their actions, and determine if they are saved or lost.

Actually, we even look at our own lifestyle and determine if we are saved.

That is improper judgment. If we want to know if a person is saved, we should listen to their message.

John 7:24 Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.

Righteous judgment should be according to the word of God. If a person says they believe Christ paid for their sin with His sacrifice, we should accept that.

Instead, we judge their actions and appearance. We seem to think they should do something to prove they are saved, just believing is not enough.

If we do not see an outward action we make a judgment based on our own self righteousness, not according to the word of God.

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PART TWO FAITH AND WORKS

The First And Second Rest

Matthew 11:28-30 Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

In verse 28 the Lord said to come unto Him all those who labor and are heavy laden. In other words, salvation cannot be earned. No matter how hard we work at it, we cannot save ourselves. "Not of works, lest any man should boast."

The Greek word for labor is *kopiaio*, and it means to feel fatigue, toil, and to be weary. The word for laden is *phortizo*, which means to overburden with spiritual anxiety.

Working my way to heaven and salvation is fatigue, toil, and wearisome. It is an overburden of spiritual anxiety, and it will not work.

Salvation is free by faith in the finished work of Christ on the cross.

However, in verse 29 the Lord said to 'take my yoke upon you.' A yoke is a sign of work. What did He mean by that?

The answer is simple; it is the difference between salvation and service. Salvation is free without any works. Give up a works righteousness and receive the righteousness of Christ.

Service means to take up the yoke of Christ. However, Jesus said it was His yoke, and in verse 30 He said His yoke was light.

The Greek word for yoke is *zugos*, which carries the idea of coupling together, and servitude. It also carries the idea of obligation.

When one Ox is put to work it is harnessed to the ox-bow. When two oxen are used they are coupled together by a yoke.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SALVATION AND SERVICE

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The First And Second Rest

When we serve Christ we are coupled together with Him. It is the only way we could serve. His yoke is easy and light.

“Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me.” Serving Christ means we must learn of Him. That means Bible study. Study the Bible.

The first rest of verse 28 is salvation. The second rest in verse 29 is service.

Mixing my work of service with the free gift of salvation is a perversion of the gospel.

Israel, in the Old Testament, were an example to the church. They made mistakes we should not follow. (ref. 1 Corinthians 10:6 Hebrews 3:7-13)

Israel failed to enter the land of Canaan, the land of promise, which is a type of the second rest. Canaan was not a type of the first rest, which is salvation. It was a type of the second rest, which is service.

They failed to enter the promise land because of unbelief, or lack of faith. They refused to believe the promised land was theirs, and God would protect them from those who dwelt in Canaan. They simply refused to trust in their God for divine protection. (Deuteronomy 1:20-33 Hebrews 3:11,12)

Today, the so-called Christian refuses to believe salvation is by simple faith in the finished work of Christ.

Deuteronomy 1:8 Behold, I have set the land before you; go in and possess the land which the Lord swore unto your fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give unto them and to their seed after them.

Deuteronomy 1:32 Yet in this thing ye did not believe the Lord your God.

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The First And Second Rest

Israel's relationship with God was not founded on faith. The first rest of salvation is by Faith, not of works. The second rest of service is obtained by the same faith.

Israel was captive in Egypt, which is a type of being lost in the world. They were led across the Red Sea, which is a type of the gospel. Mixing the Word of God (the gospel) and the blood of Christ, (my sins covered) is a type of crossing the Red Sea.

After we hear the Word of God, and believe the Word we hear, we are saved out of Egypt. (Ephesians 1:12-14)

After crossing the Red Sea they were placed in the wilderness. From there they were supposed to take an eleven days journey into the promised land.

Israel failed and wandered in the wilderness for forty years. (read Deuteronomy 1:1-36 with Hebrews 3:1-4:16)

All of this is recorded in the Bible as a warning to the New Testament Christian.

After we hear the Word of God, and believe the gospel, we are placed in the wilderness, a type of the Christian testing ground. We may take our journey and cross the Jordan into the promised land, or wander in the wilderness as Israel did.

Joshua 1:13 Remember the word which Moses, the servant of the Lord, commanded you, saying, The Lord your God hath given you rest, and hath given you this land.

The previous generation refused to believe the Lord, and serve Him by faith. So, they wandered in the wilderness for forty years. God said.....

Hebrews 3:11 So I swore in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.

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The First And Second Rest

Hebrews 3:18,19 And to whom swore he that they should not enter in his rest, but to them that believe not.

So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.

The book of Hebrews was written primarily to Jewish Christians. It reminded them of the failure of their ancestors. It reminded them of the example they should not follow. It is an exhortation to serve Christ by faith.

It is an example and exhortation to all Christians.

Hebrews 4:1 Let us, therefore, fear lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.

Notice the word 'us', all Christians. It is us who are saved by faith in Christ. "Let us therefore fear lest we come short of the promise."

Hebrews 4:9-11 There remaineth, therefore, a rest to the people of God.

For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his.

Let us labor, therefore, to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.

It should be easy to see the message of Hebrews. A rest remains to the people of God. It is the rest of service. When we give up our self righteousness, and our good works, and trust Christ alone for our salvation, we enter into the first rest.

Then we must labor to enter into the second rest of service. However, it begins with faith. We must believe and trust in Christ with simple faith as we serve or we will fall short.

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The God Of Peace

Romans 5:1,2 Therefore, being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

By whom also we have access by faith into his grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Peace with God is salvation. When we trust Christ as our Savior, by simple faith, we have peace with God.

That is the same as the first rest of Matthew 11:28.

Therefore, Paul states, we have peace with God when we are saved. Before I trusted Christ as my Savior there was no peace with God. A wall of separation existed between God and myself. It was sin.

Paul, in Ephesians 2:11-18 makes it clear to the Gentile that we are not the same as Israel, yet, we are all in the same condition before we are saved.

Notice the following.....

Ephesians 2:12-14a without Christ, being aliens, .. having no hope, and without God in the world.

But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

For he is our peace.

Faith in Christ justifies us. The wall is broken down and we have peace with God through Jesus Christ the Lord. That is salvation!!

Peace with God is the same as the first rest. It is salvation and it is free by grace through faith.

Sin has separated us from God. The blood of Christ has brought us 'nigh.'

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SALVATION AND SERVICE

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The God Of Peace

*Ephesians 2:17,18 And came and preached peace unto you who were far off.
And to them who were nigh.*

For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

Notice in Romans 5:2 and Ephesians 2:18 the words “have access.” If the wall is broken down and we have peace with God, why do I need access?

The first rest and peace with God is salvation and it gives me the ability to see the kingdom of God.

NOTE: The kingdom of God to be discussed later.

Philippians 4:4-7 Rejoice in the Lord always; and again I say, rejoice.

Let your moderation be known to all men. The Lord is at hand.

Be careful for nothing, but in everything, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God.

And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Jesus Christ.

Peace with God is salvation. Peace of God is service. Serving God gives me the ability to rejoice. I can pray to God with thanksgiving. The first peace of salvation gives me access to God through Jesus Christ, and the second peace of service is knowing I have access and using it by faith.

2 Thessalonians 3:16 Now the Lord of peace himself give you peace always by all means. The Lord be with you all.

Israel, like most people today, failed to believe in the God of peace. Because of self righteousness, they believe in their own good works, not only for salvation, but for service.

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Seeing And Entering The Kingdom

In John chapter three, the great salvation chapter, Jesus told Nicodemus in verse three, *"Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."*

Then, in verse five, Jesus said, *"Except a man be born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."*

The word see is the Greek word *eido*, and it means; to know; behold; be aware of...;

The word enter is the Greek word *eiserchomai*, and it means; to come into; to go in; enter into...;

Why would the Lord use two different words? The answer should be obvious.

When we are saved by faith in Christ as our Savior we are born again, baptized with, the Holy Spirit. He, the Holy Spirit, gives us the ability to see the kingdom of God.

The kingdom of God is everything God has to offer, such as peace, joy, contentment, etc.

Having the ability to see the kingdom of God is salvation.

Entering the kingdom of God is service.

Matthew 11:28 Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Working my way to heaven and forgiveness of sin is labor.

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Seeing And Entering The Kingdom

It is heavy laden and will not work. When we trust Christ as our Savior we enter the first rest, and peace with God, and have the ability to see the kingdom of God.

Entering the second rest, which is having the peace of God, and entering into the kingdom, is my service for Christ.

Serving Christ has nothing to do with having eternal life and forgiveness of sin. That is free by faith in Jesus Christ as my Savior.

Serving Him is taking up His yoke, and learning of Him.

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The Circle Of Faith

1 John 5:13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God, that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

I call this verse the circle of faith. Notice the words of John, divinely inspired by the Holy Spirit.

1. These things, the Bible, the Word of God, are written to those who believe in the name of the Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ. These things are written to those who are saved by grace through faith and enjoy the first rest of salvation.
2. These things are written so that ye may know ye have eternal life. The Bible was written so we may know, not hope, or think, or speculate, but know you have eternal life. Jesus said, *"Take my yoke upon you and learn of me..."*
3. *"... and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God."* The Bible was written to those who believe in the Son of God. That is salvation by faith in Jesus Christ. Then, after I believe and begin to study the Bible, (learn about Him) my faith is increased for service.

Without faith it is impossible to serve Him. The more I study the Bible and it proves itself, the more my faith is increased.

Please notice the Christian progress:

1 Peter 2:2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow by it.

When we are born again, (newborn) we begin our new journey.

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The Circle of Faith Cont.

It begins with Bible study.

2 Timothy 2:15 Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Unfortunately, most people do not rightly divide the word of truth. It means keeping salvation and service separate.

2 Timothy 3:16,17 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

Every saved, born again, child of God needs to get into the circle of faith. I am saved by grace through faith, not of works. (Ephesians 2:8,9 Titus 3:5)

Then, as I serve Christ as I should, as a new born babe, begin with the pure milk of the word. That is the simple basic doctrines.

After we grow in the Lord we must begin to acquire the meat of the word, and study to show ourselves approved, and rightly divide the word, growing into the thoroughly furnished man of God.

"Take my yoke upon you and learn of me... ..and ye shall find rest unto your souls."

That is the second rest, peace of God, and entering the kingdom, which is my serving Christ by faith.

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PART THREE THE PERVERTED GOSPEL

Galatians 3:1-3 O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?

This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

Are ye so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?

Paul the apostle gives the church at Galatia a severe verbal spanking. He calls them foolish and bewitched. And rightfully so. They had begun to pervert the simple gospel with man made works.

Paul began the book of Galatians with a strong reprimand in chapter one verses 6-9. (ref. pages 10,11 of part two)

The Greek word for foolish is *anoetos*, which means unintelligent thinking; not applying the mind.

The Greek word for bewitched is *baskaino*, and it carries the idea of bringing evil upon a person by feigned praise; to mislead by an evil eye and so to charm.

Like most churches today, the church at Galatia had allowed an outside influence to infiltrate the church with a false gospel; a false message.

Paul states, "*I would they were even cut off who trouble you.*" (Gal.5:12) That means to literally cut off from humanity. Or, to be dead.

Mixing grace and works is a perversion of the simple gospel of Christ. It often takes a verse used to describe my service to Christ after I am saved with the salvation message. It mixes believe on the Lord Jesus Christ with mans efforts.

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PART THREE THE PERVERTED GOSPEL

Of course no one wants to be guilty of perverting the gospel intentionally. Yet, without knowing it, that is what we have done..

In the following portion of part three we are going to show what we believe how the gospel is perverted today by men who really believe they have it right.

Remember, Jesus said, “He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.” Peter said, “whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.” Paul said, “And by him all that believe are justified from all things.”

Why then, is believing in Jesus Christ, not good enough, or sufficient, for the salvation message.

It was sufficient for the Lord, Peter, Paul, and all the authors of the Bible, who were divinely inspired by the Holy Spirit.

The Many Gospels

Believing in the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ for forgiveness of sin just does not seem good enough for most preachers and denominations.

We are told we must walk an aisle and say the sinners prayer or make a confession of some kind. We call it the altar of repentance, or the mourner’s bench.

We are told you must repent of your sin, which means to turn from sin, and ask Jesus into your heart, make Jesus the Lord of your life, believe with your heart not your head.

All of this, and more, promoted by self righteousness and Bible ignorance. Remember what Paul told Israel in Romans chapter ten?

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PART THREE THE PERVERTED GOSPEL

Let us look at six of the many things people add to the simple gospel message, which should not be part of salvation. We will not even consider foolish statements which drag people down an aisle

There is nothing in the Bible about a 'mourner's bench salvation,' or, 'the altar of repentance.'

Therefore, it would be a waste of time covering this issue.. However, lets view the most popular terms used in connection with the gospel, that are used today.

1. Repent of your sin. If this were true, turning from my sin would be part of my salvation, along with believing in Christ.
2. The A.B.C.'s of salvation. A= . admit you're a sinner. B. = believe in Jesus. C.= confess
3. The Romans road to salvation.
4. The sinners prayer.
5. Ask Jesus into your heart.
6. Make Jesus the Lord of your life. Ask Jesus to be your Lord.

Proverbs 30:6 Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee; and thou be found a liar. (ref. also Deuteronomy 4:2 12:32 Revelation 22:18,19)

Repent

Matthew 3:1,2 In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judea,

And saying, Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Mark 1:14,15 Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God.

And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand, repent and believe the gospel.

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PART THREE THE PERVERTED GOSPEL

We believe in the word repent. After all, it is used in the Bible. However, we believe it used incorrectly. We are told it means to 'turn from sin.'

We are led to believe that we must repent, or turn from our sin, and believe the gospel. If that were true, then my salvation would depend on something I did in connection with what Jesus Christ did.

My salvation would then become a works righteousness.

In the New Testament the words repent, repented, repentance, and repenteth, are used 65 times. They are translated from four Greek words.

Once again, we have taken the Greek alphabet and translated the Greek into the English alphabet.

Example - μετανοεο = metanoeo in the English language.

The four Greek words translated repent in the New Testament are.....

1. metanoeo = to change the mind; to change one's mind
2. metanoia = to change the mind; to change one's mind
3. metamellomai = to care afterwards; regret
4. ametameletos = without regret; without a change of mind

The words metanoeo and metanoia mean the same thing. They have different endings because metanoeo is a verb, and metanoia is a noun. Nouns and verbs have different endings in the Greek.

The word repent is used 23 times in the New Testament and is translated from the Greek word metanoeo in all cases except 2 Corinthians 7:8 and Hebrews 7:21, where the word repent is translated from the Greek word metamellomai. (in 2 Cor. 7:8 Paul is talking to a group of believers and in Hebrews 7:21 it is the Lord himself)

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The word repentance is used 25 times and is translated from the Greek word *metanoia* in all cases except Romans 11:29, where the word is translated from the Greek word *ametameletos*.

The word repented is used 15 times and is translated from the Greek word *metanoeo* except in Matthew 21:29,32 27:3 and 2 Corinthians 7:10 where the word is translated from the Greek word *metamelomai*.

In none of the words in the original Greek does repent, repentance, and etc., mean to turn from sin.

If we insist on telling people to repent and trust Christ as their Savior, we must also tell them the word means to 'change the mind.'

Mark 1:14,15 Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom.

And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent, and believe the gospel.

Jesus used the word repent when He preached the gospel to Israel. Why did He do that?

The answer is found in Romans 10:1-4

Romans 10:1-4 Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.

For I bear them record that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge.

For they, being ignorant God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.

For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that believeth.

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Jesus was telling Israel to repent, change their mind, about obeying the law for their righteousness. 'Christ is the end of the law to everyone that believeth.'

He was telling them to believe in, trust in Him, for their salvation.

Paul said, they, like most people today, are self righteous and Bible ignorant. We seem to think we must establish some kind of righteousness of our own along with our faith.

However, trying to establish my own righteousness, along with faith in Chris as my Savior, makes faith null and void.

In Acts chapter sixteen, when the jailor saw the prison doors open, he was about to kill himself because he thought Paul and the others had escaped.

However, Paul cried out to the man and said, "Do thyself no harm; for we are all here."

When the jailor realized something bigger than all of them had just taken place he began to tremble and.....

Acts 16:30,31 And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?

And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

Jesus said, "*whosoever believeth in me hath everlasting life.*" Peter said, "*whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.*" Paul said, "*All that believe are justified from all things.*" (John 6:47 Acts 10:43 13:39)

Everlasting life, remission of sins, and justified from all things, just by believing in the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ as payment for my sins.

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The A.B.C.'s of SALVATION

The A.B.C.'s of salvation means I must admit I am a sinner, believe in Jesus Christ and confess my sins.

The fact is, when I believe in Jesus Christ as my Savior, I have admitted, or acknowledged, I am a sinner already.

However, who do I confess to? Do I confess to the preacher, to the congregation, or to the Lord Himself?

When I believe in the finished work of Christ on the cross as payment for my sin, I have already confessed to Him with my thought process.

Why not just tell people to believe in Him? That is what Jesus did, and Peter did, and Paul did, and that is what the Bible says.

The Romans Road to Salvation

Part of the Romans road to salvation states that I must confess with my mouth that Jesus is Lord and that God has raised Him from the dead(Romans 10:9,10)

Once again, we are told to confess. To who? This, along with the so called A.B.C.'s of salvation is a perversion of the gospel.

It is mixing believe with something I must do in order to be saved.

The fact is, the Romans road will only take you to Rome, unless you put your faith in Christ along the way.

NOTE: All of this will be discussed in part four

We claim that no one is saved by their own works, then, we add some kind of a work.

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Apparently, it seems, Jesus needs our help. Or perhaps, we need some of the credit for our entrance into heaven.

The preacher must have his part in our salvation, otherwise, he might not be doing his job.

The Sinners Prayer

There is nothing wrong with praying. We recommend it. However, when we make a prayer part of the gospel message it becomes perverted.

Do I pray before I trust Christ as my Savior? Do I pray while I am trusting Him for salvation? Do I pray after I hear and believe the gospel?

At which time does the prayer have anything to do with my salvation?

Where in the Bible does it say anything about the sinners prayer. As a matter of fact, a sinner has no prayer. (unless it glorifies God in some way)

Walking an Aisle

Asking a person to walk an aisle in the church is often used in part of the salvation message. When we do, we ask the person to say the sinners prayer, or call on the name of the Lord, or ask Jesus into your heart, or make Jesus the Lord of your life, etc. etc.

We call it the mourners bench, or, the altar of repentance.

The sinners prayer, the mourners bench, the altar of repentance, or any thing we must do is a works salvation, and is never mentioned in the Bible.

“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.” Believe, faith, trust, and to give one credit for.

Do we believe by walking, praying, saying, or some other cliché?

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Ask Jesus Into Your Heart / Give Your Heart To Jesus Head Belief Or Heart Belief?

There is something about using the word 'heart' that makes our salvation seem more sincere. After all, my heart had something to do with it. And it did come from the heart.

We are told you might believe with your head, but if you do not believe with your heart you are not sincere, therefore, you are not really saved.

Are any of these clichés valid? Are they part of the gospel message? Let's ask two basic questions?

1. Where in the Bible does it say to ask Jesus into the heart as part of the gospel message?
2. Is it logical to even suggest?

The gospel message of salvation is that Christ died for our sins according to the Scripture; was buried, and rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and all we have to do is believe in Him. (John 3:16 6:47 Acts 10:39-43 Acts 13:28-39)

The Bible says not to add to the word of God. (Revelation 22:18,19 with Deuteronomy 4:3 12:32 Proverbs 30:5,6)

Therefore, the Bible says we are not to add to the gospel. Just because it sounds good does not make it logical.

Having a child ask Jesus into their heart confuses young people and makes the gospel of no effect.

Does the Bible use the word heart? Yes it does! But never in context with my salvation.

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Proverbs 23:26 My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways.

Notice, the context is a father talking to a son. We are not God's children until after we believe.

The word heart is used nine times in the 23rd Proverb. Eight of those are translated from the Hebrew word *leb*, and it means - feeling; intellect; center of understanding.

One time the word heart is translated from the Hebrew word *nephesh*, and it means - animal; life; desire.

Proverbs 23:7 For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he. Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee.

In verse 7 the first word translated heart is 'nephesh,' and means animal life, and desire. It is the thought process. "*As he thinketh in his heart, so is he.*"

The second word translated heart is 'leb,' and it means feelings, intellect, center of the understanding. It is the thought process.

Both words apply to the person we are warned to be aware of. (vs. 1-7) Both words apply to his thought process. The word *nephesh* is a type of the old nature. The word *leb* is a type of the new nature we receive from the Holy Spirit after we believe in Christ as our Savior.

Notice the following..... vs. 12 Apply thine heart unto instruction.... vs. 15 My son, if thine heart be wise..... vs. 19 guide thine heart in the way....vs.26 give me thine heart.....

These are the things we do after we are saved, not what we do in order to be saved.

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Ephesians 3:14-17 For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,
That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;
That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,*

The Greek word translated 'hearts' in this verse is *kardia*, and it means thoughts; feelings, mind. (It is the same word used in Romans 10:9,10 which will be discussed in part four)

Ephesians 3:17 was written to the saved child of God, and it states, "That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith."

Notice that verse 16 states, "to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man."

Remember, when we trust Christ as our Savior, we are baptized with, sealed with, the Holy Spirit. (part one pages 8,9)

Because the Holy Spirit dwells in and with us, so does the Father and the Son. Therefore, asking Jesus into your heart as part of the salvation message is simply a false message.

1 Corinthians 3:16,17 Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are

Colossians 1:27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

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It seems that “Christ in you,” is still a mystery to some. The Holy Spirit dwells in, and with, every believer when they trust Jesus Christ as their Savior.
(John 14:16,17 Romans 8:9 1 Corinthians 2:12 3:16,17 6:19,20 2 Corinthians 6:16 Ephesians 1:13,14 2:16-22 4:30 Colossians 1:27)

Asking Jesus into your heart, or, giving your heart to Jesus as part of the salvation message is simply a perversion of the gospel.

Then there are those who say you may have believed with your head, but if you do not believe with your heart, you are not truly saved.

What does that mean? Do we have two belief systems? Do we have two minds?

We certainly agree that every Christian has two natures. That is the old nature we were born with, and the new nature given to us by the Holy Spirit when we trust Christ as our Savior.

However, we do not have two brains, or two minds. Remember Proverbs 23:7....”as he thinketh in his heart,...but his heart is not with thee...”

It is two different Hebrew words describing one man with one mind, but two different ways of thinking.

The Gospel And Confusing Phrases

Adding anything to the word believe is a perversion, or at least, a distortion of the simple gospel. Listed below are just a few of the many terms, phrases, or cliché's we use when presenting the salvation message. None of which are Biblical.

1. Surrender to Christ/surrender all... Nowhere is this term used in the Bible in connection with salvation from sin.
2. Make a commitment ... How and what do you commit?

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3. The sinners prayer ... Jesus or the apostles never asked anyone to say a prayer in connection with faith in Christ.
4. Confessing my sins ... Who do you confess to? When you trust in the payment Jesus Christ made for your sins, you have just admitted your are a sinner, and your sins (all your sins) are paid for.
5. Make Jesus the Lord of your life ... Some say, "If He is not the Lord of all, He is not the Lord at all. In other words, every aspect of your life must be ruled by Jesus. We call it lordship salvation. Which basically means if you sin you are not saved. (also to be discussed in part four)

These are just a few of the many things we add to the simple gospel. We could always say they are meaningless little things.

However, it is what Paul said was a perversion, and we are told not to add to the Word of God.

Did Jesus, Peter, Paul, the Holy Spirit, and the inspired Word of God, all lie, or just tell half the truth, when it said, 'whosoever believes in Him has eternal life, is justified from all things, and has forgiveness of sin.'???

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PART FOUR TEXT VS. CONTEXT

Introduction to Part Four

Many times we mix verses meant to describe our Christian life, or our service to Christ, with the salvation message.

Knowing the difference is a simple matter of rightly dividing the Word of God.

Romans 12:1,2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

And be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

The Two Will's of God

Remember in part two (Faith and Works pages 13-20) we saw the first rest, which is salvation, and the second rest of service. Also the first peace of salvation and the second peace of service, and seeing the kingdom, which is salvation, and entering the kingdom of service.

God also has two things He would like for all humanity. It is called the will of God, or what His will is for everyone.

The first will of God is that everyone would believe on Jesus Christ as their Savior.

John 6:40 And this is the will of him that sent me, that everyone who seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.

The first will of God is that everyone who sees the Son, (= to behold; consider; see something as it really is) will believe in Him unto everlasting life. That is salvation.

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Colossians 1:9,10 For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;

The second will of God is after we trust Christ we bring forth fruit. The fruit of a Christian is another Christian.

That is done by presenting ourselves a living sacrifice and increasing in the knowledge of God.

In other words, be examples. Study the Word of God. Learn of, and about Him. Live a life that reveals our new nature.

2 Timothy 2:15 Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Rightly Dividing the Word

Rightly dividing the Word means to study the context of Scripture and not just one text, or verse. Building doctrine upon one verse results in false messages and cults.

Rightly dividing the Word gives wisdom, knowledge, and spiritual understanding.

Rightly dividing the Word will bring forth fruit.

Rightly dividing the Word is the second will of God.

It is God's will that everyone sees Jesus Christ as Who He really is and believes in Him. God wants everyone to be saved.

It is also God's will that after we are saved we will present ourselves a living sacrifice.

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Do not be conformed to this world. Be transformed by the renewing of the mind. The word renew means to restore, renovate. Serving the Lord takes effort, some work, and some changes. It is only our reasonable service and God's will for us after we are saved.

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Do Christians Sin?

The problem with the world is sin. Since Adam and Eve were deceived by Satan in the garden, sin has been in the world. Sin will exist until God finally destroys all sin when He establishes the new heavens and earth.

Sin has been paid for at the Cross by Jesus Christ the Lord. However, it is only forgiven at this present time when we have faith in Him.

Yet, even though we like to deny it, sin still dwells in this body. It is called the flesh. It is also called the old man. (Romans 6:6 Ephesians 4:22 Colossians 3:9)

The apostle Paul acknowledged his sinful old nature in Romans chapter seven. (Romans 7:14-25)

Romans 7:17-20 Now, then, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.

For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) dwelleth no good thing; for to will is present with me, but how to perform that which is good I find not.

For the good that I would, I do not; but the evil which I would not, that I do.

Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.

Paul states that because of the old sinful nature we do things we would rather not do. It is the sinful desires of the flesh that creates the battle in the life of the Christian.

The apostle John acknowledged his sinful nature, and the sinful nature of all Christians in 1 John 1:5-10

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1 John 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

Notice the words we, and us, and ourselves. If we say we have no sin the truth is not in us. (present tense)

Then, in verse nine John states that if we confess our sins, He, Jesus Christ, will forgive us our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (that is for the present and future)

And in verse ten John declares that if we say we have not sinned, (that is in the past) we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

In other words, we were, and are, and will be sinful until we are shed of these sinful flesh and blood bodies.

Small Sins or Big Sins

There are those who claim that as Christians we cannot sin. Or, they say you might make a little mistake but you cannot sin.

James 2:10 For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.

There is no such thing as a big or little sin. There is no such thing as a “mistake.” A sin is a sin. One mistake and I am guilty of all.

Sin and the Holy Spirit

Will the Holy Spirit allow us to sin? In the Old Testament the Holy Spirit would come upon a person and leave a person as He saw fit.

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The Holy Spirit was given for special wisdom or gifts. (ref. Exodus 31:1-11 35:30-36:38)

In 1st Samuel 10:6-10 after Samuel anointed Saul, the Holy Spirit came upon Saul.

Yet in 1st Samuel 13:8-14 and 15:1-25 we have the account of Saul's disobedience and sins against God.

But the Holy Spirit did not leave Saul until after Samuel anointed David as recorded in 1st Samuel 16:12-14

1 Samuel 16:13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren; and the Spirit of the Lord came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah.

The Holy Spirit came upon David from that day forward. Even though David committed a great and terrible sin by having a relationship with Bathsheba, and having her husband killed in battle, in order to cover his sin.
(2 Samuel 11:1-27)

Even though "*the thing that David had done displeased the Lord,*" (vs. 11:23) the Holy Spirit did not leave him.

The apostle Paul, in his letter to the Christians at Ephesus, reminds them of their old sinful nature. (Ephesians 4:17-24)

Then he warns them not to sin, (Ephesians 4:25-29) and he states
Ephesians 4:27 Neither give place to the devil.

We would admit that giving place to the devil is sinning.

Ephesians 4:30 And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, by whom ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

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We can actually grieve the Holy Spirit. Our sins grieve the Holy Spirit, yet, He will never leave the saved child of God.

When we trust Christ as our Savior, our sins that separate us from God are forgiven. We may now enter the presence of God when we leave this sinful body.

After we are eternally saved, God expects us to live a life that reveals Him in us. If we do not, we lose fellowship with Jesus Christ. (1 John 1:3-7)

If we lose that fellowship, it is our responsibility to restore that fellowship by acknowledging our sins and failures. (1 John 1:8-10)

Then, because we have an advocate in heaven, (Jesus Christ the Lord ... 1 John 2:1,2) our fellowship is restored.

1 John 3:9 Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him, and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

It sounds like a Christian cannot sin? Since we know that is not true, and a Christian has the ability to sin, what does it mean?

If it seems there is a contradiction in the Scripture, then we must study the whole context and not just one text. (= one or two verses)

The Context of 1 John

The context of 1 John is the relationship of the children of God with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, verses the relationship with God of those who reject Him.

To the child of God.....

1. Fellowship with the Father and the Son. 1:3-6

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2. An advocate with the Father. (Jesus Christ our attorney) 2:1,2 4:10
3. Cleansed from all sin. 1:2-10 2:12 3:5
4. Overcome the world and the devil. 2:14 5:4,5
5. Righteous. 3:7-10
6. Holy Spirit in us. 2:20 3:9,24 4:2-4,13
7. Eternal life. 5:11-13

To the non Christian, or those who reject salvation by faith.....

1. None of the above
2. Antichrist mentality. 2:18,19 4:3,4
3. A liar. 2:22
4. Lieth in wickedness. 5:19
5. Denies the Father and the Son.

When we trust Christ as our Savior, we are born again, which means indwelt by the Holy Spirit. As far as our eternity is concerned, it is secure and permanent.

Because God is looking at us through His eyes, we cannot sin!! That is, we cannot sin our way out of heaven.

However, since God knows we are still in our sinful bodies, we will sin as we go through our Christian lives. Therefore, He has provided a way for us to maintain our fellowship with Him.

Confess our sins, and He forgives our sins. (1:7-2:2 2:12 3:5)

The context of 1 John is that the born again child of God cannot sin in God's eyes because he has the Holy Spirit who will never leave us. It is the promise of the Father. (2:24-29 3:5-10 5:4-6 with John 14:16,17 Ephesians 1:13,14 4:30)

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PART FOUR TEXT VS. CONTEXT

“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.” (1 John 1:8)

The Flesh

The word flesh in the New Testament is always translated from the Greek word *sarx*, except in Romans 14:21 and 1 Corinthians 8:13.

The Greek word *sarx*, refers to the body; humanity; literal flesh; flesh and blood.

Paul states ...”For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) dwelleth no good thing.....” (Romans 7:18a)

Romans 7:14 For we know that the law is spiritual; but I am carnal, sold under sin.

The word carnal in this verse is the Greek word *sarkikos*, and it means pertaining to the flesh; unregenerate; fleshly.

The flesh is sinful by nature. We live in a sinful body by nature. There is nothing we can do about it. We were born with it. We will have it until we are dead.

Paul said, “pertaining to the flesh, I am sold under sin”.

The flesh tries to please God and men by being religious. Therefore, we pervert the Word of God, when we add to the simple gospel with our physical actions.

The flesh needs to be noticed, recognized, and admired. However, it is faith that pleases God, not the works of the flesh. (Hebrews 11:6)

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Result of Sin

Does God condone or promote sin? Of course not! Yet, He knows the Christian will sin. Therefore, He has provided a way for everyone to have forgiveness of sin, and eternal life.

He took on flesh and blood, died on a cross, was buried, and rose again, according to the Scriptures. Then He states that all anyone has to do is believe in Him.

Then, after we are saved by grace through faith, we need fellowship with Him. He knows that the saved child of God will still sin

Therefore He has provided Himself (Jesus Christ) an advocate in heaven who intercedes on our behalf.

All we have to do is acknowledge our sin, and He will forgive us our sins, and restore our fellowship with Him.

Continued sin in the life of a child of God will bring the chastening of the Lord, even to the point of an early death. (1 Corinthians 11:28-34 Hebrews 12:5,6)

There are some sins that we are told not even to pray for. (1 John 5:16)

Also, at the judgment seat of Christ, (which is actually our evaluation, we have already been judged saved) we will lose rewards we could have had otherwise. (Romans 12:1,2 14:10-12 1 Corinthians 3:12-17)

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SALVATION AND SERVICE

PART FOUR TEXT VS. CONTEXT

Call on the Name of the Lord An explanation of Romans 10:9,10,13

Romans 10:9,10 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Romans 10:13 For whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Over the years men have taken these verses and added them to the gospel, or the salvation message. We claim that in order to be saved unto eternal life it is necessary, not only to believe in the Lord, but to call on His name.

Once again we have taken a few verses, or at least one verse, (vs. 13) and made it part of the salvation message.

However, after a careful study of the entire context, these verses in Romans cannot be added to message of the Lord and the apostles as recorded in the Bible by the Holy Spirit.

Either Jesus and the authors of the Bible lied, or they just told half of the truth, if calling on the Lord is a requirement for eternal salvation. (John 3:15,16,36 6:47 Acts 10:43 13:39 16:31 1 Corinthians 15:1-4)

Context of Romans Chapter Ten

The book of Romans was written to a group of people who were already saved. (Romans 1:1-7 16:1-27)

In chapter ten verses 1-4 Paul lays the foundation for the rest of the chapter.

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PART FOUR TEXT VS. CONTEXT

Paul states they had a zeal for God, but not according to righteousness, because they were trying to establish their own righteousness.

They had not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God, because of their own righteousness. (I.E. self righteousness vs. 2,3)

Romans 10:4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that believeth.

Believe in, faith, in Jesus Christ, is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that believeth.

Paul was addressing the Jewish Christians in particular, but all Christians in general.

He states that believing in Christ establishes the righteousness of Christ in us. Why did he not say that calling on the name of the Lord was part of the requirement?

Because he was writing to those who were already saved.

The Jews were afraid to witness for Christ because they would be cast out of the synagogue. They would be ridiculed and hated by their families and friends. (John 7:12,13 9:22,23)

Romans 10:11 For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

Acts 1:8a And ye shall receive power, after the Holy Ghost is come upon you; and ye shall be witnesses unto me

In order to witness for Christ, you must confess Him with your mouth. If you believe on Him, and believe He rose from the dead, you should not be ashamed of Him; so confess Him with your mouth. (vs. 9 and 11)

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Romans 10:10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Romans 10:11 For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness. That is salvation from sin and eternal life!!

And with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. That is for divine protection for service as we witness for Christ!!!

Because “Whosoever believeth on Him shall not be ashamed!!!

NOTE: The word saved in Romans 10:1,10 is from the Greek word *soteria*, which means safety; health; deliverance; salvation.

It is from the Greek word *soter* which is Savior/Saviour, the Greek equivalent for Messiah, or Jesus Christ the Lord.

The word saved in Romans 10:9,13 is *sozo*, which also means to deliver; protect; preserve.

The word heart in Romans 10:9,10 is from the Greek word *kardia*, and it means thoughts; feelings; mind.

In other words, as we see in Romans 10:4, righteousness, which is forgiveness of sin unto eternal life, which is our righteousness in God's eyes, is by simply believing in Christ.

And with the mouth, if we confess Christ, somebody might be saved

For with the heart, the mind and thought process, we believe in Christ our Savior.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SALVATION AND SERVICE

PART FOUR TEXT VS. CONTEXT

Romans 10:14 How, then, shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?

Paul sums it up with one verse. How shall they call on him in whom they have not believed. They must hear first. Then they may believe. Then they have the right to call on Him.

But, first, there must be a preacher. Therefore, confess Him with the mouth so someone will hear and perhaps believe. If they do not, they have no right to call on Him.

David said he called on the Lord for protection throughout his Christian life for deliverance and protection. (Psalm 116:1-19)

Did David call on the Lord to be saved many times over? No! He called on the Lord after he was saved, not in order to be saved.

Confess Him Before Men

In Matthew chapter 10 we have the same concept. The Lord sent His twelve apostles to the nation of Israel. (not the Gentiles 10:1-9)

He told them to preach the kingdom of heaven at hand, because the Messiah, Jesus Christ was at hand.

He told them not to fear the Jews. (Matthew 10:26-31) Then he told them.....

Matthew 10:32,33 Whosoever, therefore, shall confess me before men, him will I 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.

The warning was to the apostles, not Israel. He said, "Fear them not." How do you witness for Christ if you are ashamed of Him, or in fear?

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SALVATION AND SERVICE

PART FOUR TEXT VS. CONTEXT

The Lord was telling the apostles if they did not confess Him before men, He would not confess them before the Father, for divine protection from heaven.

Taking one or two verses out of context, and adding them to the gospel is a perversion of the Word of God.

Jesus said, “Whosoever believeth in me hath everlasting life.” Peter said, “Whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.” Paul said, “All that believe are justified from all things.”

For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that believeth.
(Romans 10:4)

Calling on the Lord and confessing Him before men is my service, not my salvation.

I call on Him for divine protection, as I confess Him before men, and He confesses me before the Father in heaven, as He gives me protection from the world and Satan.

Hearing the gospel, and believing on Jesus Christ, who died, was buried, and rose again for my sins, is all I must do to have eternal life.

Calling on Him has nothing to do with forgiveness of sin unto eternal life, and should not be added to the simple gospel.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SALVATION AND SERVICE

PART FOUR TEXT VS. CONTEXT

Inherit The Kingdom

1 Corinthians 6:9,10 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

Paul writes the same thing to the church at Galatia. (Galatia 5:19-21) However, in Galatians he adds words like; uncleanness, lasciviousness, witchcraft, hatred, jealousy, seditions, murderers, variance, and wrath.

We are led to believe by many preachers today that if we do any of these things, (which we should not do), we are not saved.

Before we continue allow us to relate a true story. The names have been changed, but the story is true.

Johnny's parents belonged to a large denomination. They attended church only a few times a year. One day a friend of Johnny's invited him to attend church with his family. They belonged to a good Bible teaching church.

The Sunday school teacher gave the clear gospel and Johnny accepted Christ as his Savior. At the time Johnny was just twelve years old and was excited about his new discovery.

When he returned home he could not wait to tell his parents about his decision.

They were irate and told Johnny he could not return to that cult church. He never did.

Eventually his friend moved and they lost contact.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SALVATION AND SERVICE

PART FOUR TEXT VS. CONTEXT

For the next fifteen years the memory of that Sunday in church became distant for Johnny.

In high school, in order to be excepted by his peers, he went along with most everything. He began to do drugs and drink with 'his friends.'

By the time he was thirty he had tried just about every vice there is.

Was Johnny saved at the age of twelve? If he believed Jesus Christ died on the Cross and paid for his sin he was saved!!

Yet, we know the Bible states that they who do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

Once again, we need to look at the whole context and not the text only.

Lets ask ourselves five questions...

1. Who is Paul writing to, and why?
2. What is the kingdom of God?
3. Where is the kingdom of God?
4. Who has access to the kingdom of God?
5. What do these verses not say?

Number one: Who is Paul writing to and why? He is writing to the church at Corinth and the church at Galatia. Two of the most corrupt churches in the New Testament.

In Corinth there were divisions. (1 Cor. 1:10-17) They were carnal. (3:1-4) They were puffed up. (4:6,18) There was fornication within the church. They were glorying in their sin, and there was fraud among them. (5:1-6:8)

And that is just the beginning. Paul states, "I praise you not." (11:17)

In Galatia they had perverted the gospel. (1:6-11) Paul asks, "Who hath bewitched you." (3:1-3)

These verses were not written to the lost, but to those who were saved.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SALVATION AND SERVICE

PART FOUR TEXT VS. CONTEXT

Paul is warning the church at Corinth and the churches in Galatia not to yield to the flesh. The flesh is puffed up. The flesh wants recognition. The flesh thinks it can please God and man.

Number two and Number Three: What and where is the kingdom of God? Humanly, that is, in our physical bodies and surroundings, we only see the visible. We see worldly kingdoms, which are visible.

We do not see the invisible.

The kingdom of God is everywhere at all times, and is everything God has to offer.

NOTE: In the following we will not quote all the Scripture because of space. We will give Scripture references where necessary.

Throughout the Old and New Testaments the kingdom of God is made manifest.

In Deuteronomy 28:1-14 God told Israel if they obeyed Him they would be blessed (28:1,2) He warned Israel not to serve other gods. That means to serve Him and Him only by faith.

He said, "*The Lord shall open unto thee his good treasure...*" (28:12a)

He would bless their crops, their families, their status, and all the fruit of their efforts. (28:3-13)

All of these things are from the kingdom of God.

(ref. the divine intervention for Elisha in 2 Kings 6:1-23)

Daniel reminded Nebuchadnezzar that the kingdom of God rules in the kingdom of men. (Daniel 2:39 4:17,25,32 5:21 7:18)

Men only think they are in charge!!

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SALVATION AND SERVICE

PART FOUR TEXT VS. CONTEXT

In Psalm 145 and 146 we are reminded of the greatness of God. (Psalm 145:3-6, 10-12 146:6,10)

Psalm 145:18,19 The Lord is nigh unto all those who call upon him, to all who call upon him in truth.

He will fulfill the desire of those who fear him; he also will hear their cry, and save them.

The kingdom of God is everlasting. (vs. 145:13)

His saints shall talk of the glory and power of His kingdom. (Psalm 145:10,11,21 146:1,2)

The God of Jacob is a close help. (Psalm 146:5)

He is here throughout all generations. (Psalm 145:13 146:10)

All of this and more comes from the kingdom of God, which is everywhere at all times.

The New Testament leaves no doubt as to what and where the kingdom of God is.

In Matthew chapters five and six is what is referred to as the sermon on the mount, or the beatitudes. (also Luke 6:20-49)

He explained, or rather, expounded on the principles of the kingdom of heaven, which is also the kingdom from heaven, and the kingdom of God.

In 5:48 He states “be ye perfect as your Father in heaven is perfect.” In 6:8 He says “your Father knoweth what things ye have need of before ye ask him.”

Then in Matthew 6:33 He says....

Matthew 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you.

Seek the kingdom of God and His righteousness!!!

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SALVATION AND SERVICE

PART FOUR TEXT VS. CONTEXT

Before the Lord ascended into heaven He spent forty days speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God; (Acts 1:3)

The apostle Paul spent the last years of his life at Rome teaching and preaching concerning the kingdom of God. (Acts 28:23,31)

Therefore, the kingdom of God must be available here and now.

Number four: Who has access to the kingdom of God?

John 3:3 Jesus answered, and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

John 3:5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

In John chapter three Nicodemus came to Jesus by night. He was afraid of being seen talking to Christ. He questioned Jesus about who He was. No doubt he was wondering if this was the King Israel had been waiting for to establish the kingdom.

Jesus knew what he was thinking and said you must be born again to see and enter the kingdom. The word see is from a Greek word *eido*, and it means to be aware; to behold; to know.

The word enter is from the Greek word *eiserchomai*, and it means to come into; to enter in; go in.

You must be born again to see, or be aware of the kingdom of God; that is salvation.

You must be born again to enter into the kingdom of God; that is my service to Christ after I am saved. (ref. also pages 19,20)

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SALVATION AND SERVICE

PART FOUR TEXT VS. CONTEXT

When I believe, by faith, Christ died, was buried, and rose again, for my sins, I am saved and have the ability to see, or, be aware of the kingdom of God.

When I serve Christ by faith, I enter into the kingdom of God, and have all the blessings of God at my disposal.

Romans 14:17,18 For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink, but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. (Holy Spirit)

For he that in these things serveth Christ is acceptable to God, and approved of men.

Serving Christ by faith gives me access to the kingdom of God, which is righteousness, peace, and joy; here and now!!

Romans 5:1,2 Therefore, being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

By whom also we have access by faith into his grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

In verse one being justified by faith is salvation, and verse two having access by faith is for service.

Ephesians 2:18 For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

Every born again child of God has the ability to see, or, be aware of the kingdom. That is salvation and the indwelling Holy Spirit.

Every born again child of God has the ability to enter the kingdom, which is access by the Holy Spirit, which is our service.

However, just because the born again child of God has the ability to see and enter the kingdom of God, does not mean they will.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SALVATION AND SERVICE

PART FOUR TEXT VS. CONTEXT

Number five: What do these verses not say?

These verses in 1 Corinthians 6:10 and Galatians 5:21 and Ephesians 5:5 say that they who do such things as fornication, idolatry, filthiness and etc., have no inheritance in the kingdom of God.

They do not say those who do such things shall not inherit eternal life!!

The word inherit is from the Greek word *kleronomeo*, and it means to share by lot; an allotment; to share in.

Since these verses were written to Christians, it is only logical that the meaning is that the Christian who is living this lifestyle will not share in the kingdom of God.

The kingdom of God is everything God has to offer such as answered prayer, blessings, peace, joy, contentment, and so forth.

The kingdom of heaven is used in Matthew 54 times and is translated as the kingdom of God and the kingdom of Christ and the kingdom of the Lord in the rest of the New Testament.

The kingdom of God is everywhere at all times. It is available to all saved, born again children of God.

Those who do not live a life that reflects their new life in Christ have no right to share in the kingdom of God while they live on this earth.

Using these verses to determine if a person is saved or lost is mixing works with the salvation message.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SALVATION AND SERVICE

PART FOUR TEXT VS. CONTEXT

Impossible to be Resaved?
Hebrews 6:4-6 and 10:35-39

Two of the most misunderstood portions of Scripture are found in Hebrews 6:4-6 and Hebrews 10:35-38.

NOTE: For an excellent study on Hebrews read the book Hebrews by Dr. M.R. DeHaan.

There are basically two points of view concerning these passages of Scripture. There is the Arminian position which is that these people mentioned in Hebrews were saved, and then for some reason lost their salvation.

Then there is the position held by many Bible teachers, that they had heard the gospel and rejected it to the point that they could not be saved.

Both positions are false and are based on self righteousness and Bible ignorance.

It is a simple matter of building a doctrine on a small text without context.

Understanding these two portions of Scripture will be easy if we view the context surrounding the text.

We will begin with three simple questions. Number one: What is our position on eternal security? Number two: Who is the author of Hebrews writing to? Number three: Why is the author of Hebrews writing to this group of People?

Question number one: What is your position on eternal security? Can you lose your salvation of your own free will as the Arminian position believes?

Jesus said, "Whosoever believes in me hath everlasting life." He did not say temporary! He said everlasting!

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SALVATION AND SERVICE

PART FOUR TEXT VS. CONTEXT

When we trust Christ as our Savior He promises us eternal life. He is the one who remains faithful, not us. (Galatians 2:16 2 Timothy 2:13 Hebrews 10:23)

He is faithful to His promise. He also gives us the Holy Spirit who seals every believer until the day of redemption.

Therefore, we believe one cannot lose their salvation, because Jesus Christ cannot deny himself, and cannot lie. (2 Timothy 2:11-13)

Question number two: Who is the author of Hebrews writing to?

Hebrews 6:4-6 For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance, seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.

Hebrews 10:39 But ye are not of them who draw back unto perdition, but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.

We must admit these verses sound like a person may “fall away,” and it would be, “impossible – to be renewed unto repentance....”

On the surface it would seem we could fall away and “draw back unto perdition.”

Hebrews was written primarily to the saved Jew, but also to all saved children of God. They were referred to as ‘brethren.’ (2:11,12,17 3:1,12 7:5 10:19 13:22)

They were called ‘holy brethren,’ in 3:1. They were referred to as, ‘we’ and ‘us’ throughout the epistle.

The author was claiming identification with those he was writing to.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SALVATION AND SERVICE

PART FOUR TEXT VS. CONTEXT

The New Testament was not written to the lost. They are spiritually discerned and cannot relate to most of it. (1 Corinthians 2:12-16)

Hebrews was written to saved born again children to motivate them to serve by faith. (Hebrews 11:1-40)

They had become self righteous, and had 'fallen back' to observing the law for their righteousness. False teachers had led them astray. They thought they were serving the Lord, however, it was not in truth. One cannot serve the Lord unless we serve in truth.

The truth is the Old Testament law does not save anyone, and does not keep anybody saved. It is the blood of Christ and His faithfulness that saves us and keeps us saved.

They were reminded that the second rest of service is by faith. (Hebrews 3:14:16) They had acquired the first rest of salvation, now they, like all Christians, needed to enter the second rest. (Hebrews 4:9-11)

Hebrews 6:4-6 For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance, seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.

Had these Hebrew children of God become lost because they were putting Christ to open shame? Or were they never saved in the first place? Had they come to the very threshold of being saved, and by rejecting the gospel lost their chance of being saved?

Notice the words used to describe these folks. The word enlightened is from a Greek word meaning to shine; brighten; make to see.

The word tasted means to experience.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SALVATION AND SERVICE

PART FOUR TEXT VS. CONTEXT

The word partakers is from the Greek word *metochos*, and it means to share; fellow partner. They were fellow partners with like believers.

Question number three: Why is the author writing to these Christians?

The warning to these Christians is that their lifestyle was putting Christ to open shame. Once saved, it is impossible to be re-saved. They had fallen away, which means a lapse, or, to fall aside.

Their service to Christ was ‘bearing thorns.’ (vs. 8) It had to do with “things that accompany salvation.” (vs. 9)

It had to do with receiving present day blessings, their second rest, entering the kingdom, and all the things that accompany salvation.

Hebrews 10:39 But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition, but of them who believe to the saving of the soul.

“You see,” they say, “You can draw back unto perdition and lose your soul.” The claim is that you can draw back and lose your salvation.

If we truly believe in eternal security, then we need to search for a logical answer to these so called controversial verses.

This verse is used by those who do not believe in eternal security, and believe they may throw away their salvation.

Once again it is important to examine the entire context and not just one text.

Chapter ten is a reminder to the Hebrew children who have trusted Christ as their Savior that they may never lose their salvation.

Hebrews 10:14 For by one offering he hath perfected forever them that are sanctified. (Hebrews 10:10-18)

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SALVATION AND SERVICE

PART FOUR TEXT VS. CONTEXT

They were reminded that the Old Testament law and sacrifices did not save anyone. It was designed to point them to Christ, the real sacrifice. (Hebrews 10:1-12)

Hebrews 10:18 Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin.

They were reminded that Christ is our High Priest, (10:19-21) and we must serve Him with ‘full assurance,’ by faith. (10:21-23)

If we sin willfully after we are saved there remains no more sacrifice for sins, (10:26) but the judgment of God upon His people. (10:26-31)

They were reminded to hold onto their confidence and live by faith, because the law will not keep you saved. (10:35-38)

Hebrews 10:38,39 Now the just shall live by faith; but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition, but of them who believe to the saving of the soul.

Once again we need to define some words. The term ‘draw back,’ is from a Greek word meaning to withhold under; out of sight; to conceal.

In other words, these Hebrews were concealing their salvation because they were afraid of the ridicule of the other Jews. (John 9:20-23 12:42)

The word ‘perdition’ means loss or ruin. The word soul means animal life; instinct.

The word perdition simply means loss or ruin. It is used either of present day ruin, or ruin in eternity. The word soul is not our eternal soul, it is our instinct, or, personality.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SALVATION AND SERVICE

PART FOUR TEXT VS. CONTEXT

These Christians, like those at Galatia, had fallen back into obeying the law as a means of keeping their salvation. They were offering Old Testament sacrifices. They were not serving by faith.

Therefore, notice the warnings in Hebrews chapter ten.....

10:23 Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering...

10:24 And let us consider one another to provoke ... unto good works

10:26 For if we sin willfully... there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins.

10:30bThe Lord shall judge his people.

10:31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

10:35 Cast not away, therefore, your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward.

Hebrews was a warning to the Christian to serve Christ by faith after we are saved.

I may serve Christ by faith, or, I may conceal my new life in Christ. If I draw back, I am open to ruin in this present life and loss of rewards in heaven.

Remember! If we put Christ to open shame, we are subject to His vengeance and His judgment. (10:30,31)

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SALVATION AND SERVICE

PART FOUR TEXT VS. CONTEXT

The Fruit of a Christian

John 15:8 In this is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

What is the fruit of a Christian?

An apple tree yields apples. A cherry tree yields cherries. The fig tree bears a fig. A farmer who has an apple orchard plants an apple tree in the orchard. He expects the trees to bear apples.

Therefore, the fruit of a Christian is another Christian. His good works are not his fruit, but the result of his good works is his fruit.

Titus 3:8,14 This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they who have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.

And let ours also learn to maintain good works for necessary uses; that they be not unfruitful.

The Christian who maintains good works will not look like a hypocrite when he or she gives the gospel. It is always the gospel that brings forth fruit. Yet, the gospel must be preached by someone. And, that someone, must maintain good works, or, they will be bad examples.

The Message

Throughout the gospels the Lord warned about judging people falsely. He said, "Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment." (John 7:24)

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SALVATION AND SERVICE

PART FOUR TEXT VS. CONTEXT

Why is it we judge a persons salvation, even our own, by the outward appearance?

Jesus warned against that attitude in Matthew chapter seven and John 7:24.

Matthew 7:1 Judge not, that ye be not judged.

Christ is not talking about righteous judgment, He is talking about judging a persons righteousness by their appearance. Righteous judgment is using the Word of God to judge a persons salvation.

Notice the words in verses 2 through 6.....

Vs. 2 You will be judged according to the way you judge others. In other words, if you judge a persons righteousness according to the appearance, you will be also, and you will fall short.

Vs. 3. The mote (speck) in your 'brothers eye,' is nothing compared to the beam (large obstacle) in your own eye. (note the word brother)

Vs. 4. Straighten out your own life before trying to straighten out others.

Vs. 5. Thou hypocrite!!!

Vs. 6 A hypocrite judges unrighteous judgment.

Matthew 7:15,16a Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves

Ye shall know them by their fruits.....

Matthew 7:20 Wherefore, by their fruits ye shall know them.

The false prophet looks and acts like a cute, cuddly, sheep. But it is cosmetics. They are ravenous wolves.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SALVATION AND SERVICE

PART FOUR TEXT VS. CONTEXT

Jesus said the false prophet looks outwardly good, but inwardly they are really bad.

What is the fruit of a false prophet? It is another false prophet! It is the message that brings forth fruit. If the message is false, the fruit is false.

“By their fruits ye shall know them” Who is it we shall know? The false prophet.

We cannot know a false prophet by their looks or their lifestyle because they look like sheep. It is always the message that reveals who the person really is. It is the message that reveals a true Christian, not their appearance.

If we call ourselves Christians, we should ask ourselves what made us Christians? The answer should be: We believe that Christ died, was buried, and rose again, for our sins.

If we add anything to that message we are calling Jesus Christ, the apostles, and the Holy Spirit liars, and we are false prophets.

Fruit and Profit

Jeremiah 7:8 Behold, ye trust in lying words that cannot profit.

The fruit and profit of a Christian are the same thing. Lying words do not profit. Neither do they bring forth fruit. A false prophet brings forth another false prophet.

Jesus warned the disciples to beware of the leaven of the Pharisees. They realized He was warning them about the doctrine, or the teaching of the Pharisees, who were false prophets. (Matthew 16:6-12)

Beware of false prophets and their doctrine.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SALVATION AND SERVICE

PART FOUR TEXT VS. CONTEXT

The Hebrew word for profit in Jeremiah 7:8 is *ya-al*, and it means to be valuable; useful; benefit.

Jeremiah states that lying words cannot benefit, are not valuable, and are not useful.

Titus 3:5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost.

Titus 3:8 This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they who have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.

Titus 3:5 is salvation, but not by works of righteousness. It is a free gift by faith in Christ.

Titus 3:8 is service. Our good works, which are seen by others, will profit and bring forth fruit.

A false message is a lie and there is no profit, or rather, no one truly becomes saved, with a false message.

The only profit in a false message is another false prophet.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SALVATION AND SERVICE

PART FIVE RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD

In part one we answered the question; What is the gospel? The Bible states that the gospel is that Christ died, was buried, and rose again, for the forgiveness of sin.

God has done His part. He paid for the sins of all humanity, then, He recorded it in the Bible for all to read.

Man's part is to believe, trust in Him, and His sacrifice for our sins.

Part two is an attempt to show how salvation is acquired by simple faith. Faith is what pleases God. Even our good works must be done by faith.

Part three reveals how the simple gospel is distorted and perverted by man adding works. We claim to believe that salvation is not by works, while we quote Ephesians 2:8,9, yet we really do not believe it.

We claim that is too easy and we add something to the gospel in order to help Jesus save us.

Part four is a continuation of part three. It shows how we take one verse and build a doctrine on it without looking at the surrounding verses, or context.

We call it taking a text out of context.

In part five we intend to view portions of Scripture that are taken completely out of context. When this is done it distorts the Bible and adds a works righteousness to the salvation message.

Some of these verses we have already seen. However, we intend to expound a little more on their real meaning.

Example

James 2:20 states that, "Faith without works is dead." Many claim that according to this verse if you have no good works, your faith is dead, and you are not truly saved.

We do not believe that is the teaching of James 2:14-20.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SALVATION AND SERVICE

PART FIVE RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD

James 2:14-20 Faith Without Works is Dead

James 2:14,20 What doth it profit my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and hath not works? Can faith save him?

But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

Is James contradicting the rest of Scripture? Of course not!! Yet many Bible teachers seem to think so.

Why do we not take Jesus, Peter, Paul, and all the authors of the Bible, divinely inspired by the Holy Spirit, at their word?

The Bible states that we are all born into sin. We are sinners. (Psalms 53:1-3 Romans 3:10,23)

The Bible declares that Christ died, was buried, and rose again, for the forgiveness of sin. (Acts 10:34-43 Acts 13:28-39 1 Corinthians 15:1-4)

The Bible states that salvation from sin unto eternal life is by believing (the Greek word – pisteuo = faith; trust; entrust; give one credit for) in Jesus Christ the Lord. When we believe He paid for our sins, we have everlasting life. (John 6:47 Acts 16:31)

The Bible also says it is absolutely free without any works or effort on our part. (Romans 4:1-5 Ephesians 2:8,9 Titus 3:5)

Why is it we claim to believe that simple truth, but we really do not??

Why do we take these two verses in James and judge a persons salvation by their works?

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SALVATION AND SERVICE

PART FIVE RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD

Why not interpret these two verses with the rest of the book of James before we build our doctrine on one or two text?

If we truly believe that salvation is free without works, we need to understand the context of James.

Therefore, we need to ask three questions. 1. Who is James writing to? 2. Why is James writing to them? 3. Who inspired James?

Lets answer number three first. The Bible says it is divinely inspired by the Holy Spirit. (2 Timothy 3:16,17 1 Peter 1:11,12 2 Peter 1:19-21)

Therefore, the Holy Spirit inspired James, and He, the Holy Spirit, who is truth, cannot lie.

Who is James writing to? He is writing to Israelites. (1:1) Like Hebrews and Peter, James was written to saved Jews. They were called 'brethren.' (vs. 1:2,16 2:1,14 3:1,12 4:11 5:7,9,19)

They had the faith. (vs. 1:2,6 2:1) Their faith was in Jesus Christ. (2:1)

They were 'begotten with the word of truth.' (1:18) They had the truth and were warned not to err from it. (5:19)

These people were part of the New Testament church and the body of Christ.

Why was James writing to them? These Hebrew Christians, like most Christians today, were not living a life that reflects their faith. They were being reprimanded by James. It was a verbal spanking.

It is important to note that James is not writing to the lost. The lost would not understand it, let alone read it.

He is writing to the saved Jew, who cannot get over the law. Like most people today, Jew and Gentile, we add obeying the law, or a work, to salvation.

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John 9:22 These words spoke his parents, because they feared the Jews; for the Jews had agreed already that, if any man did confess that he was Christ, he should be put out of the synagogue.

John 12:42 Nevertheless, among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue.

The biggest problem with the early Jewish Christians was fear of the religious leaders, and even other Jews who rejected Christ.

Therefore, they reasoned that being religious was all they needed to do to please God.

Notice the warnings from James.....

They were weak in their faith and could not endure trials and temptations (1:2-14)

Those temptations lead to lust and lust to sin. (1:14-21)

They were warned to study the word of God and live by it, not religion. (1:22-27 with Hebrews 5:11-6:2 1 Peter 2:2 2 Peter 3:13-16)

They were warned about having respect for those who were rich and looked important. (2:1-9 with Galatians 1:10)

They were gossipers and tale bearers. (3:1-18)

They were worldly, not spiritual. (4:4)

And that is just the beginning of their faults James warned them about.

However, there are consequences for these attitudes of the Christian. James also reveals the consequences of being a worldly Christian.

Consequence number one: There is no fruit in the life of a Christian that is not serving Christ by faith. It is also called profit. In other words, a Christian that does not maintain good works does not profit and bring forth fruit.

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James 2:14 What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? Can faith save him?

James 2:17,18 Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works; show me thy faith without thy works, and I will show thee my faith by my works.

James 2:20 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

James is talking about living a life that reflects my new life in Christ. If we witness for Christ while we have good works, others will see our faith. Our good works reveals our faith in the eyes of men.

Titus 3:8b ... that they who have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.

Titus 3:14 And let ours also learn to maintain good works for necessary uses, that they be not unfruitful.

Maintaining good works is profitable because it brings forth fruit. The fruit of a Christian is another Christian.

Consequence number two: The second consequence of not maintaining good works is the chance of a premature death of the child of God. If we do not have good works we make the Lord look bad in the eyes of men.

At first He will chasten us. Sometimes this chastening feels like trials, but they make us stronger in the faith. (James 1:2-12 with Hebrews 12:1-15 and proverbs 3:11,12)

If this spiritual spanking does not work, the next step is illness and then physical death.

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It is not eternal death and separation from God. It is physical death. Jesus Christ does not lie when He states that faith in His sacrifice for our sins is eternal life.

James 1:15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin; and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

James 5:19,20 Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him,

Let him know that he who converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.

If the saved child of God does not have good works, then it is only logical that he or she must have bad works.

If we continue in bad works after we are chastened of the Lord, the next step is illness or physical death. (1 Corinthians 11:28-34 1 John 5:16,17)

James uses Abraham as an illustration when he offered up his son Isaac.
(James 2:21-24)

However, Abraham was saved years before Isaac was even born as recorded in Genesis 15:1-6.

God himself preached the gospel to Abraham, and Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness. (Genesis 15:1-6 Romans 4:1-5 Galatians 3:6-8)

Abraham revealed his faith to men by his good works. (and it is recorded in the Bible for all to read)

Therefore, James states, "I will show thee my faith by my works."

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2 Peter 2:1 Denying the Lord That Bought Them Or

Bought With a Price

2 Peter 2:1 But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

2 Peter 2:20,21 For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in it, 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 had known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.

This portion of Scripture in 2 Peter has often been miss-interpreted by those who feel one could lose their salvation.

The claim is that they were bought by Christ, therefore, they were saved at one time, then denied the Lord that bought them, at lost their salvation. They had the knowledge of the Lord and Savior, and turned from the commandment.

However, after careful examination we see that is just not true. We should ask ourselves several questions. Do we believe in the eternal life promised by Christ?

If we do, were these people saved at all? Were they in danger of being cast out by the Lord?

Notice the words used by Peter to describe these false prophets.....

1. 2:1 False teachers with damnable heresies.
2. 2:2 Speak evil of the truth

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3. 2:3 Make merchandise of the church
4. 2:3 Their damnation and judgment is soon to come
5. 2:12 Brute beasts; to be destroyed; perish in their own destruction
6. 2:13 Will receive the reward of unrighteousness
7. 2:13 Spots and blemishes
8. 2:14 Eyes full of adultery; cursed children
9. 2:17 Wells without water
10. 2:17 Mist of darkness reserved forever
11. 2:19 Servants of corruption

These are just some of the terms used by Peter to describe these false prophets. Christ gave a description of the false prophet in Matthew 7:15-23 23:1-34.

He also said the Christian would be a "well of water springing up into eternal life." (John 4:14 7:37-39)

These false prophets were never saved in the first place. Therefore, we need to examine this portion of Scripture in detail.

We need to start by examining the meaning of some of the Greek words.

"The Lord that bought them." The Greek word for bought is *agorazo*, and it means to go to market; to redeem; to purchase...

The world is the market place. When Christ went to the cross, He went to market to redeem the entire world.

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.

John 12:32,33 And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me. This he said, signifying what death he should die.

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1 Timothy 2:6 Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

Jesus Christ died on the cross to pay for the sins of all humanity. (ref. also 1 Timothy 1:15 1 Timothy 2:4-6 1 John 2:1-2)

1 Corinthians 6:20 For ye are bought with a price; therefore, glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

1 Corinthians 7:23 Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men.

The word bought in these two verses is the same as the one used in 2 Peter 2:1.

The Greek word for price is *time* (*pronounced tee-may*) and it means value; money paid; esteem (highest degree) honor;

The money changes hands when we hear and believe the gospel. When we believe Christ paid for our sins, (went to market to purchase us) the price is fully paid. Then, "*Ye are bought with a price.*"

Christ died, was buried, and rose again, for the forgiveness of sins. (= bought, went to market)

The price is paid when we believe in Him.

The Greek word for deny found in verse one means to contradict; refute; reject; disavow...

Many will hear the gospel, and claim to be Christians, but will reject the simple message of 'believe on Him.'

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shall be saved, is added to with man's ignorant philosophy.

The Lord went to the market for the false prophets in 2 Peter chapter two, yet they denied Him, and the price is not paid.

"there shall be false teachers among you." Nothing has changed!!

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The Greek word for knowledge in verse 20 is *epignosis* and it means full knowledge; discernment.

The word turn in verse 21 is *apostrophe* and it means to revert; to come or go about again.

The commandment of course, is to “believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.”

These false prophets, false teachers, heard the gospel, had full knowledge, yet reverted, turned about again, to their old ideology of a works righteousness.

They had full knowledge of the gospel, because they heard the truth, yet they reverted back to whatever they believed before they heard it.

On the day of judgment it, “would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness..”

There are false teachers in our churches today who deny the Lord that bought them.

They claim Jesus, Peter, Paul, and all the authors of the Bible, divinely inspired by the Holy Spirit, lied when they said believing in, faith in Christ alone, is all we need for forgiveness of sin.

They are bought but not with a price. And they are “among us.”

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The Faithfulness of Jesus Christ

Galatians 2:16 Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

Galatians 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: Nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

The church at Galatia was a perfect example of our present day churches. Those who were saved, were saved by simple faith in the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ as payment for sins. (Galatians 3:1-9)

When they heard the gospel, and believed it, they were baptized in, sealed with, the Holy Spirit of promise. (Galatians 3:1-5 with Ephesians 1:12-14 and 4:30)

However, false teachers, false prophets, crept into their midst, and perverted the gospel with man made works. (Galatians 1:6-9 3:1 2 Peter 2:1-3)

Jesus Christ promised forgiveness of sin and eternal life the moment we believe in Him.

However, the self righteous and Bible ignorant refuse to believe that simple Bible truth.

They continue to infiltrate our churches and teach a false message, and our people believe it.

The faithfulness of Christ is what keeps us saved, not the faithfulness of man.

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2 Timothy 2:11-13 It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him;

If we suffer, we shall also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us:

If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful; he cannot deny himself.

We may even fall back to the point of unbelief, yet He cannot deny Himself. He is the faithful one. We may deny Him and He will deny us for protection and answered prayers and blessings and etc., yet we still have eternal life, because He cannot deny Himself. (ref. also Hebrews 10:22,23)

The following four portions of Scripture are used by those who would like to believe they have the ability to take part in their salvation.

Philippians 2:12

Colossians 1:23

1 Timothy 6:19

Revelation 2:7,11

Do we really believe forgiveness of sin is by faith in the finished work of Christ? If we do, then we need to defend our position. It begins with rightly dividing the Word of God.

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Work Out Your Own Salvation

Philippians 2:12 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

This is one of the many verses used by those who promote a works righteousness. “See, “ they say, “You must work for your salvation.”

However, this verse does not say to work for your salvation. It says to work out your salvation

Philippians was written to saved, born again, children of God. (Phil. 1:1,2,5 2:1,5 3:1-3 3:20,21 4:1,4-7 4:20-23)

It was written to exhort the church at Philippi to increase in knowledge, judgment, without offense, And....

Philippians 1:11 Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.

Philippians 2:15 That ye may be blameless and harmless, sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world.

Work out your salvation (which you must have in the first place), so you will be blameless and harmless in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, because ye are the children of God.

Paul states that, “among whom ye shine as lights in the world.”

Therefore, abound in knowledge, (1:9) be sincere and without offense until the day of Christ (1:10).

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Be filled with the fruits of righteousness,...unto the glory and praise of God
(1:11)

Because, “ye are the sons (children of) God, and that you may be harmless and blameless in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation.

Working out your salvation has nothing to do with working for your salvation.

Continue in the Faith

Colossians 1:23 If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature that is under heaven, of which I, Paul, am made a minister.

The claim is that you must continue in the faith or you will lose your salvation. We have already seen that it is the faithfulness of Jesus Christ that keeps us saved. If our faith keeps us saved, the salvation would be based on our efforts, which would be a works righteousness.

The answer to this verse is contained within itself. If we continue in the faith we will be grounded and settled and not moved away from the hope of the gospel.

The hope of the gospel is my eternity with Christ. The return of the Lord for His church. Our future glory with Him, and our resurrection.

Continuing in the faith will be filled with the knowledge of his will (1:9). Walk worthy of the Lord. (1:10) Be fruitful. (1:10) Strengthened with all might. (1:11) And, look forward to our future redemption. (1:11-14)

Continuing in the faith will keep us grounded and settled and looking to our future in heaven. It is His faithfulness that keeps us saved.

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Lay Hold On Eternal Life

1 Timothy 6:12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, unto which thou art also called and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

1 Timothy 6:19 Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

In verse twelve Paul tells Timothy to lay hold on eternal life. Then, in verse nineteen, Paul tells Timothy to warn others to lay hold on eternal life.

What does that mean? Does it mean we do not have eternal life unless we lay hold on it? How do I lay hold on eternal life?

The context of 1 Timothy chapter six is godliness verses worldliness. Paul is telling Timothy to warn the Christian not to be conformed to this world. It is much better to put our trust in the things of God, and what He has to offer, than the things the world has to offer.

1 Timothy 6:6 But godliness with contentment is great gain;

1 Timothy 6:8 And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.

Luke 12:21 So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.

Paul states in 1 Timothy 6:9,10 that the love of money and the desire to be rich will lead to temptation and is a snare to the Christian and the non Christian.

Paul says it creates many sorrows. 1 Timothy 6:10b.

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1 Timothy 6:11 But thou, O man of God, flee these things, and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.

Timothy was a man of God. He already had eternal life. In order to lay hold on something you must already have it.

The words 'lay hold', or from a Greek word meaning *to take; seize; catch; to live to see; to reach to; ...*

There is nothing wrong with being rich. However, it may keep the lost from being saved because they feel they do not need God, and it may keep the saved from serving Christ because they serve their money.

In Luke 18:18-27 the young rich man walked from Christ, "sorrowful, for he was very rich."

Also, if we serve the world, and what the world has to offer, we will lose out on present blessings and future rewards.

In Luke 20:19-26 the priests and other religious leaders came to take Christ. In verse twenty they intended to 'take hold' of His words. (same as lay hold)
Their goal was to use His words against Him.

However, it didn't work!!

The goal of the Christian should be to lay hold on what you have and use it. Following after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, and meekness is 'laying hold on eternal life.'

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He That Overcometh

In Revelation chapters two and three, in His message to the seven churches, Christ uses the term, “He that overcometh....” (Rev. 2:7,11,17,26 3:5,12,21)

We have those who claim that overcoming means to overcome sin. If we do not overcome sin, we are not truly saved.

Or, they claim, you will be left behind after the rapture, to go through at least half of the tribulation.

The word ‘overcome’ in the original Greek means to, *subdue; conquer; overcome; prevail; get the victory.*

I John 5:4,5 For whatever is born of God overcometh the world; and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God.

Overcoming is not defeating our sinful nature, or defeating Satan, But it is our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

He that overcometh is he that believes in Christ as his or her Savior.

Trust = salvation

Trust = service

Faith and trust is the VICTORY!

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CONCLUSION

The gospel is that Christ died, was buried, and rose again for the forgiveness of sin, according to the Scriptures. (1 Corinthians 15:1-4)

When we put our faith in His sacrifice, believe in Him, we have forgiveness of sin and eternal life.

Why is it we seem to think He needs our help? We claim salvation is free without any works, by grace through faith, yet we add some sort of work.

Then we find a verse in the Bible that seems to support our position and it becomes part of our doctrine.

If we really believe in faith alone, we should defend that position and study to understand these so called controversial verses.

Jesus Christ did not lie when He said, "Whosoever believeth in me hath everlasting life"

Why then, do we constantly call Him a liar when we add all of our works to the simple gospel message.

We use foolish phrases like; ask Jesus into your heart; make Jesus the Lord of your life; call on the name of the Lord; repent of your sins;etc...etc

As this book is being re-written, there is more evil being promoted in society (Feb. 2014) that ever before in history. Homosexuality and gay marriage are being legalized by the government who has no right making those kind of decisions. Abortion is at a staggering high rate. Socialism, which is Communism, is being brought upon the entire world in the name of equality.

Perhaps we have been calling God and His word a lie for to long. (see the book NO REMEDY THE DESEASE THAT PLAGUES SOCIETY TODAY by Dr. Dan Arbogast)

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John 6:47 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.

Did Jesus lie when He said, “He that believeth on me hath everlasting life?”

Our churches and preachers seem to think so. This book reveals how the gospel message is perverted by mixing the simple, clear, gospel message with verses that have to do with our service after we are saved.

Matthew 11:28, 29, 30 Come unto me, all ye that labor, and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

The first rest of verse 28 is salvation by simple faith in death, burial, and resurrection of Christ, as payment for our sins.

The second rest of verse 30 is by learning of Christ and serving Him.

It is the yoke of being coupled to Him in His service.

No! He did not lie! This short book reveals how faith mixed with work perverts the gospel of Christ.