



*The difference
Between*

Salvation & Service

Book two of two

CHRISTIAN BIBLE PRESS
A MINISTRY OF
CHRISTIAN BIBLE INSTITUTE
SUPPORTED BY
THE MEMBERS OF CHRISTIAN BIBLE CHURCH
PERRY, OHIO

MAILING ADDRESS
P.O. BOX 261
GENEVA, OHIO
44041

VISIT US ON THE WEB AT
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SALVATION AND SERVICE

INTRODUCTION

In book number one we examined how the gospel is distorted and perverted by mixing salvation messages with service messages. We do that because we are self righteous and Bible ignorant.

Deep down we seem to know that salvation is not really as free as the Lord Jesus Christ and the apostles and New Testament writers have told us.

Because of this false doctrine of mixing grace and works many are confused, and still many remain unsaved because we have made salvation difficult.

Salvation is free by faith in the finished work of Christ on the Cross of Calvary. The Lord told us that over and over again.

After we are saved by faith in Christ, he wants us to serve him by faith. Therefore, he gave us the New Testament, divinely inspired by the Holy Spirit, to motivate us to serve. The New Testament, among other things, is a warning to serve Christ, avoid false doctrine, and look for the coming of Christ.

Unfortunately, the warnings to serve, have been abused and mingled with the gospel, and false doctrine has arisen.

In this study, which we will call book number two, we will examine various New Testament passages which deal with our service, and have been distorted by being mixed with the simple gospel.

Consider the warnings throughout the New Testament. Read the following passages and see if the warning is real. Romans 3:19,20 10:1-4 1Corinthians 1:10,17 3:1-3 5:1-8 Galatians 1:6-9 3:1 4:19,20 Ephesians 4:17-20

This is just an example of the warnings to the Christian to serve by faith and truth.

SALVATION AND SERVICE

CONTENTS

Page1	Introduction
Page3	Do Christians sin?
Page7	Work it out
Page9	Lay hold on eternal life
Page11	Bought with a price
Page14	Impossible to be re-saved
Page18	Overcoming
Page19	Responsibility

SALVATION AND SERVICE

DO CHRISTIANS SIN?

The problem with the world is sin. Every one is a sinner. There are no exceptions. Absolutely everyone who has ever been born is a sinner and falls short of God's perfection.

Therefore, everyone is destined for hell for all eternity because there is no sin allowed in the presence of God. (Romans 3:10,23 6:23)

Sin is a barrier, it is a wall of separation between man and God. The Bible calls it enmity, which means warfare. (Ephesians 2:12-16 Isaiah 59:1-3)

That is the reason the Lord Jesus Christ came to earth. He was born into a flesh and blood body and became humanity. (1Timothy 1:15)

Because God loves his creation, he wants his creation to be with him for eternity. However, since man has the ability to think for himself, God allows mankind to make their own choice. They may spend eternity with the creator, or spend eternity in hell.

The Lord has done his part in the plan of forgiveness. He came to earth and shed his blood on the Cross, then he rose from the grave. He suffered a violent and cruel death for the sins of man. He was tortured and humiliated.

The Bible tells us to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and we will be saved. It is a simple matter of faith.

That is truly amazing. All God wants from us is to believe in him. That means faith, trust, believe. Sounds like a real Father does it not?

In the Old Testament, the real problem with Israel was they would not trust the Lord. They just would not rely on him for anything. (Deuteronomy 1:32 Romans 10:1-4)

In the New Testament, the real problem is with mankind we just do not trust the Lord. We claim we believe and trust in Him, but we do not.

Just as Israel did in the Old Testament, we think we must see some outward motion or movement when people are saved.

Then we seem to think there must be some proof of that salvation after they are saved, or we think they are not saved.

Works, works, works, works.

We judge according to a man's works or lack of works. We should never judge a persons salvation according to what we see, but we do.

There is a reason why we do that. It is called human nature; it is our old sinful human nature. We are born with it.

SALVATION AND SERVICE

DO CHRISTIANS SIN?

The New Testament was written to the saved child of God. It was written to exhort and admonish the Christian to serve by faith. It was written to condemn sin in the child of God.

It was written to give us the truth. It was written to exhort us to stay in the truth and not to pervert and distort the Word of God.

The New Testament was not written to the lost. The lost would not understand the Word of God because they are “spiritually discerned.” (See 1Corinthians 2:12-16)

Paul the apostle, in his letters to the churches, and especially to Corinth and Galatia, strongly condemned their actions. They were mixing grace and works. They were perverting the simple gospel with works righteousness. (Read 1Corinthians 3:1-3 15:1-4 Galatians 1:7-10 3:1-3 4:19-21)

The present day body of Christ, the New Testament church, is guilty of the same thing. We continue to pervert and distort the Word of God. We mix verses that are designed to motivate the Christian to serve with the gospel and the truth is distorted.

In book number one we took a look at how the gospel is perverted by our misuse of the words repent and confess. We took a quick look at how the kingdom of God is mistaken for heaven only, and the gospel is perverted.

The kingdom of God is everywhere at all times, and is available for all Christians.

NEW CREATION

1Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Unfortunately, this is one of the many verses used to judge Christians. The claim is that if we find a sin in your life, you are not new, and therefore not saved. Old things are not passed away, and not new.

Why do we not read the next verse?

1Corinthians 5:18 And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation:

and the next verse.....?

1Corinthians 5:19 To wit, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them, and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

SALVATION AND SERVICE

DO CHRISTIANS SIN?

All things are of God! We are new in the eyes of God. We have been reconciled to God by faith in Christ. We were lost and alienated from God. Now we are reconciled to God the Father through God the Son.

We are indwelt by the Holy Spirit, and have a future home in heaven. We have the ability to understand the Word of God. Yes!!! All things are new but we still have the ability to sin.

THE OLD NATURE

We sin because we still have the old nature. We were born with it and we will have it until the day we die. Why do we not admit we have the ability to sin.

David acknowledged his sin and sinful nature. (Psalms 32:17 51:1-5) Jeremiah acknowledged the sin among Gods chosen people. (Jeremiah 2:13 5:25,26) Daniel acknowledged the sins of himself and the people.

Isaiah said, "Woe is me!.....I am a man of unclean lips;....." (Isaiah 6:5)

In Romans chapter seven Paul describes the old nature. He did not like the old nature because it is contrary to the new nature. However, he was aware of it's existence. He knew the only way to get rid of the old nature is to get rid of this flesh and blood body we live in. DEATH.

Romans 7:15-20 For that which I do I allow not; for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I.

If, Then, I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good.

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 that 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.

Romans 7:24 Oh, wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from this body of death?

We must acknowledge our old sinful nature. When we deny the fact that we are sinful, we open the door for the beginning of false doctrine. When false doctrine begins the gospel is perverted.

DENYING OUR SINFUL NATURE IS WORKS, WORKS, WORKS.....

The apostle John assures us of our sinful nature and what we must do about it. In 1John chapter one John tells us that we need to have fellowship with the Father. In order to do that we need to have our sins forgiven on a daily basis

SALVATION AND SERVICE

DO CHRISTIANS SIN?

To the Christian, we are a new creation because we have been reconciled to God. And, “all things are of God.” We are a new creation because our sins are forgiven.

Verse 19 states; “not imputing their trespasses unto them” If a Christians trespasses are not imputed unto them, they must have trespasses, or there would not be anything not to impute.

1John 1:8 If we say that we have not sin, we deceive ourselves. And the truth is not in us.

This verse in 1John states our present position. It is in the present tense. If we Christians, say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves.

Verses 9 and 10 have to do with our past and our future. All of our sins are forgiven as far as my entrance into heaven is concerned. However, if I want fellowship with God and answered prayers and divine protection, I need to confess my sin through Jesus Christ.

To say, “I have repented from my sin,” is a lie. When we claim to have turned from sin, and do not sin any more, we deceive ourselves.

SALVATION AND SERVICE

WORK IT OUT

We must admit there are many portions of Scripture hard to understand. However, when we mix salvation and service together with any Scripture it does not make it any easier to understand.

Salvation is by grace and service is our work. Grace vs. works.

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, “we must work for our salvation.”

However, this verse does not say to work for my salvation. It says to work out my salvation. Got a problem? Work it out.

There is always an answer to a controversial verse. (It is only controversial because of false teachers)

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

Here then, is the simple answer. Because ye shine as lights in the midst of a perverse and crooked world, maintain your Christian lifestyle so you will be blameless and without rebuke. Why? Because you are sons (children) of God.

If we would only compare Scripture with Scripture. If we would only read the entire context. If we would lonely separate salvation from service, grace and works.

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.

This is another of the verses many people wrestle with. What will happen to me if I do not continue in the faith? Will I lose my salvation?

As usual, the answer to this verse is very simple, and is contained within itself. Please notice these words.

“and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel...”

What is the hope of the gospel? It is my eternal existence. The return of the Lord for his church. Our future glory with Christ. Our resurrection.

SALVATION AND SERVICE

WORK IT OUT

Both Philippians 2:12 and Colossians 1:23 have to do with our service. They were written because we are saved. They were not written to tell us how to keep saved.

If we claim to believe that the Lord Jesus Christ is our Savior, and paid for our sin with his own blood, then how do we keep ourselves saved by, “working it out,” or “continuing in the faith?”

The answer to Philippians 2:12 is verse 15. “That ye might be blameless and without rebuke in the midst of a perverse generation.”

The answer to Colossians 1:23 is contained within itself. It is; “continue in the faith,” so you will not lose your, “hope of the gospel.”

The New Testament was written to saved, born again, believers. Children of God. Sealed by the Holy spirit. A home reserved in heaven.

It was written to exhort us to serve Christ by faith.

SALVATION AND SERVICE

LAY HOLD ON ETERNAL LIFE

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

Once again, those who are self righteous and Bible ignorant, claim it is not enough for our sins to be covered by the blood of Christ.

People must see our good works or we must not be saved. If we do not have good works we will lose our salvation. Etc.etc.etc.

1Timothy 6:19 has a logical answer just like every verse in the Bible. It has to do with our rewards for service. God does not expect his people to serve him without some kind of reward.

There are present day rewards for service, (such as Canaan, entering the kingdom of God, etc. which we saw in book number one) and there are future rewards at the judgment seat of Christ.

The answer to verse 19 is found in verse 17.....

1Timothy 6:17 Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not high-minded, nor trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy.

In Luke chapter eighteen the rich young man walked away from Christ, “sorrowful, for he was very rich.”

In Mark chapter ten verse twenty three the Lord said, “How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God.”

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

There is nothing wrong with being rich. However, if one is a child of God, and is blessed with wealth, his prosperity may get in the way of serving God.

He may not be, “rich toward God.” He or she may feel “sorrow” for their service toward God, which they may feel obligated to do.

If wealth gets in the way of service, they may enter the kingdom (experience the blessing, joy, and rewards) of God.

Then, there will certainly be loss of rewards in heaven at the judgment seat of Christ. The poor, lowly, destitute old Christian man or woman who has served Christ will have many crowns. They were poor, but they are rich.

SELVATION AND SERVICE

LAY HOLD ON ETERNAL LIFE

Paul the apostle left Titus in Crete to “set in order the things that are wanting.” (Titus 1:3) He was supposed to do this by establishing sound doctrine. (1:9,13 2:1,8)

Also in the letter to Titus, Paul establishes the difference between salvation and service. That is part of sound doctrine. That is part of, “setting things in order.” What the New Testament church needs is more Titus’s

Paul makes it very clear to Titus that the church must maintain good works. However, these works are not for salvation, these works are profitable to men because by our good works some may be saved. (1:9-16 2:7,8 2:12-15 3:8,14)

We are made aware of the importance of sound doctrine in the little book of Titus. Part of that sound doctrine is the difference between salvation and service.

In the church today we need those who will “set things in order”

SALVATION AND SERVICE

BOUGHT WITH A PRICE

2Peter 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.

2Peter 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 have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.

This portion of Scripture in 2Peter has often been misinterpreted 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. 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 our selves several questions when studying various Scripture. Were these people saved at all? Were they saved and then lost? Were they saved and in danger of being cast out by the Lord?

If we read carefully the entire chapter, we will clearly see these people were never saved at all. First of all they are false prophets and do not have the truth. (vs.1-3) They are called brute beasts who speak evil of the Word of God because they do not understand it. And will receive the reward of unrighteousness. (vs.12-13)

They are wells without water, for who the mist of darkness is reserved forever. These are not words used to describe a saved child of God.

They are called brute beasts without understanding. A child of God, who has trusted Christ as their Savior, receives the Holy Spirit and has the mind of Christ. (1Corinthians 2:12-16)

They are called wells without water to whom the mist of darkness is reserved forever. A Child of God is said to be, "a well of water springing up into everlasting life." The Christian has a home reserved in heaven. (1peter1:4)

It should be easy to see by the context that these people are not only lost, they look at act like Christians. They lead people astray with their false doctrine.

We need to examine the meaning of some of the words used in this portion of Scripture. They are the words denying, and bought, found in verse one. Also the word knowledge in verse 20 and the turn in verse 21.

SALVATION AND SERVICE

BOUGHT WITH A PRICE

The most important word that needs to be understood is the word bought found in verse one. It comes from the Greek word agorazo, and it means.... To go to market, to purchase, to redeem....

When the Lord Jesus Christ went to the Cross he went to the market for humanity. The people Peter was writing to understood the meaning of the agorazo. It meant to go to market, and to purchase, or redeem.

Every one who has ever been born needs to have forgiveness. The world is the market place and Christ went to market.

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.

The Lord said when he was lifted up on the Cross he would draw all men. Not a few good men. Not some special men. Not a religious man. All men. The world is the market place and Christ went to market for humanity when he went to the Cross.

Notice the words to the church at Corinth by Paul the apostle...

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

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

Paul said they were bought with a price. The difference is the word price, which means, value, money paid, esteem (highest degree), honor...

Jesus Christ went to the market for humanity. However, we are not redeemed until we believe in him. Hear and believe the gospel. When we believe Christ died and rose again for our sins the money exchanges hands. The price is paid Redemption is complete.

The Lord went to the market for those mentioned in 2 Peter chapter two, but they did not believe in him as their Savior. Therefore the price was not paid. They were not "bought with a price"

The word deny, found in verse one means to, contradict, refuse, reject, disavow..... Many people will hear the gospel, and claim to be a Christian, but will reject the simple message of believe. It will always be added with repent, (turn from sin) walk an aisle, confess your sins to some man, infant baptism, and multitude of things which make the real gospel void.

That is why Peter said there would be "false prophets among the people."

SALVATION AND SERVICE

BOUGHT WITH A PRICE

The word knowledge, found in verse 20 is the Greek word epignosis, and it means.....full knowledge; discernment.

The word turn, in verse 21, is the Greek word, apostrophe, which means,.....to revert; to come or go about (again)

The commandment of course is to “believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shall be saved,” We hear the gospel, which is delivered to us by some person. We repent, which means to change our mind about everything, and believe.

However, those mentioned 2Peter heard the gospel, but did not really believe in Christ. They believed in themselves. It is call self righteous. It is called a works righteousness.

They had full knowledge of the gospel because they heard the truth, yet they “reverted” to the old works salvation.

On the day of judgment it “would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness” (vs21)

If we think logically it should be easy to see the situation. Peter said in verse 1 that, “there shall be false teachers among you.”

These false teachers are in the church. They are not in another church where we do not have to be concerned about them. They are, “among you,” and they are, “false teachers.”

They, “deny the Lord that bought them.” And they are among us. They look and act like Christians. They heard the gospel and reverted to the old works salvation, and they are teachers among us.

They were never saved because they would not give up their self righteousness. The mist of darkness is reserved for them forever.

They did not get saved and them turn from the Lord and get lost again. It is +impossible to get lost after I am saved.

They were never saved.

Read also Matthew 7:15-23 (the false prophet who looks and acts like a Christian)

Read also Matthew 23:1-35 (the scribes and Pharisees who looked and acted like Christians)

SALVATION AND SERVICE

IMPOSSIBLE TO BE RESAVED

Two of the most misquoted and misunderstood portions of Scripture are found in the book of Hebrews chapter six verses 4 through six, and Hebrews chapter ten verses 35 through 39.

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 Armenian position which is that those mentioned in Hebrews were saved, and then for some reason lost their salvation.

Then there is the Calvinist position which is that those in Hebrews had come close to being saved and because they rejected the gospel, they reached the point where they will never be saved.

Both positions are false and are based on self righteousness and Bible ignorance. Both of these groups are self righteous in their doctrine. Unfortunately, many do not give Jesus Christ the credit for our salvation.

Are the people in Hebrews saved or lost? Were they saved at one time and then became lost? Did they come close to being saved, but because they rejected the gospel so many times God has cast them off for good?

The Hebrews were saved children of God. They were referred to by the writer of Hebrews as “brethren.” (2:11, 12, 17, 3:1, 12 7:5, 10:19 13:22)

They were even called, “holy brethren” in 3:1. They were referred to as, “we,” and, “us,” throughout the book.

How could it be possible these folks were not saved?

The New Testament was not written to the Lost. (1Cor.2:12-16) They are spiritually discerned and cannot understand it.

The New Testament was written to the saved for many reasons, one of which is to motivate the children of God to serve.

Hebrews was written to saved, born again, children of God, to motivate them to serve. They had become self righteous. They had fallen back to observing the law as part of their salvation.

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 that the Old Testament law did not save anybody and does not keep anybody saved. It is the blood of Christ of Christ which saves and keeps saved.

SALVATION AND SERVICE

IMPOSSIBLE TO BE RE-MADE

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.

Did these Hebrew children of God become lost because they were putting Christ “to an 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 chances of being saved?

Any one with a little common sense should be able to see they were children of God simply by the words used to describe them.

- | | | | |
|----|-------------|---|---------------------|
| 1. | Enlightened | = | Grk. Make to see |
| 2. | Tasted | = | Grk. To experience |
| 3. | Partakers | = | Grk. Fellow partner |

The words “partakers of the Holy Ghost” ought be enough to prove they were saved children of God. The Holy Ghost (Spirit) is only promised to those who trust Christ as their Savior. All saved members of the church are “fellow partners.”

The context has to do with their service, because they are saved. It has nothing to do with becoming saved, or keeping saved, it is because we are saved.

The lifestyle of these Hebrews was putting Christ “to an open shame” Their service and lifestyle 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, chastening from the Lord, future rewards, and all those things “that accompany salvation”

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

If we truly believe in eternal security, there should always be a simple, logical answer for every so called controversial verse in the Bible.

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

The claim is that we may “draw back unto perdition,” and lose our soul. Once again we need to examine some words.

SALVATION AND SERVICE

IMPOSSIBLE TO BE RE-MADE

- | | | |
|--------------|---|--|
| 1. Draw back | = | Grk. To withhold under (out of sight) to conceal |
| 2. Perdition | = | Grk. Ruin; loss; (spiritual or eternal) |
| 3. Soul | = | Grk. Life; animal life; instinct |

The Hebrews were hiding their salvation out of sight. They were concealing it because they were ashamed of Christ for one thing, and they wanted to go back to the law.

The word perdition simply means loss, or ruin. Sometimes in the New testament it is used to describe a place of final existence, however, the meaning is the same. Loss, or ruin.

The word soul has to do with the personality. It is not the eternal spirit, or the flesh, it is the heart of every individual.

These Christians were not serving Christ by faith and truth. 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 it we sin willfully..... there remained no more sacrifice for sins.

10:30b.....The 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.

It should be easy to see the warning given to the Christians in chapter ten of Hebrews. "Hold fast the profession of our faith." "Provoke to good works." "The Lord shall judge his people." "Cast not away, therefore, your confidence."

I have two choices as a born again child of God. I may conceal, or hide my new life in Christ. Or I may serve him in truth and by faith.

If I do not, "hold fast my profession," or, "cast away my confidence," I would be drawing back unto perdition. I would be falling into the hands of the living God. He judges his people.

I would suffer present day loss of rewards. I could suffer loss of well being because if we try to hide Christ in our lives, and there is no more sacrifice for sins, the only thing left is the judgement of God in our lives.

SALVATION AND SERVICE

IMPOSSIBLE TO BE RE-MADE

For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened.....

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 open shame.

For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remained no more sacrifice for sin.

It is our service that is in question. There is only one sacrifice for sin. The priests and the burnt offerings do nothing for me. It is the blood of Christ that forgives and wipes clean.

If we are living in some sin, we need to confess our sin before Christ. His is our priest.

The Hebrews had a problem with the priesthood of Christ. (read Hebrews 9:1 through 10:22)
One of the sins they were in danger of transgressing was the sin of not trusting in Christ.

I must trust in Christ in order to serve. We serve by faith and truth.

We must, "go on to perfection." Or be in danger of falling into the hands of the living God who will judge his people. TODAY.

SALVATION AND SERVICE

OVERCOMING

In his message to the seven churches in Revelation chapters two and three he used the words, “To him that overcometh.”

To him that overcometh would be given the tree of life, would not be hurt of the second death, would receive manna, a white stone, and many other things were promised to him that overcometh. (Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 25-28 3:5, 12, 21)

Once again it should be easy to see, how many people would pick up these verses and run with them. “You see,” they say, “we must overcome or we are not saved.”

For those who have a works righteousness, that is, those who are self righteousness, and think they are better than others, the term “overcome” fits right into their doctrine.

Since they claim to have overcome sin (and nobody else has) they will be the ones who will claim all the promises to the overcomers.

Some of the members of this elite group are the ones who claim part of the church will go into the tribulation. They will be taken out of the tribulation because they have overcome and lived an exemplary life.

Those who did not overcome will be left behind to endure the wrath of God during the seven year tribulation, or at least, half of the tribulation.

The word overcome in the original Greek language means to, subdue, conquer, overcome, prevail, get the victory.....

When the translators translated the Greek they chose the word overcome,

1John 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?

Faith! Faith is what overcomes the world. He that overcomes is he that exercises faith. He that trusts Christ as his Savior and continues to trust Christ throughout his Christian life.

Trust = salvation

Trust = service

Believing in, trusting in the fact that Christ is who he said he was. God in the flesh. The Son of God. When we do that we have overcome because the world will not conquer us as we serve by faith and truth.

SALVATION AND SERVICE

RESPONSIBILITY

Titus 1:5 For this cause left I thou in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee.

Paul the apostle left Titus on the Island of Crete to set in order the things that were wanting in the church there. Things that are wanting means things that are needed, or things that are lacking. It means things that are incomplete.

Titus was given the responsibility for the entire Island. Titus was to make decisions that effected the whole church on Crete. Paul gave Titus specific orders as to how he was to “set things in order.”

Titus 2:1 But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine.

“Sound doctrine!” He was to use sound doctrine. Titus was to ordain elders who had learned “sound doctrine.”(vs1:9)

He was to teach them to be sound in the faith. (vs 1:13) He was admonished to teach the elderly women, the young women, and the young men, to have sound speech. (vs. 2:2-8) Sound doctrine does.

It is the responsibility of every Christian to serve by faith and in truth. The Old and New Testaments alike outline the responsibility of every Christian. From the pulpit to the pew, the responsibility is the same.

Set the church in order by sound doctrine. By doing that, very little will be wanting.

An Island is surrounded by water. The Bible often uses the term water as humanity. A large body of water may be serene, calm, breathtakingly beautiful. Or it may be turbulent and violent, even frightening.

This would be a good description of every man who is set on his Island. Our service to Christ may be calm and serene then turbulent and violent. In times like those we need faith and sound doctrine to survive.

The New Testament describes the church as a “building” Every one knows a building needs a solid foundation Salvation by faith in Christ is the foundation. (1Cor. 3:11)

The rest of the house is built upon that foundation. If the rest of this house is built upon sound doctrine it will remain a reward for each individual for eternity. (1Cor. 3:12-15)

SERVATION AND SERVICE

RESPONSIBILITY

Sound doctrine is based on my ability to accept the Lord at this word. Salvation is free without any works. Service will cost a little labor. That is my works.

When we add anything to the salvation message it becomes a works righteousness, which will not work.

Personally, when I tell people I am a sinner, and will be until the day I die, I am accused of teaching false doctrine. I cannot remember how many times I have heard the phrase, "don't tell me you can sin and still go to heaven."

When I hear that statement it tells me two things about the one who made the statement. They are self righteous and Bible ignorant.

We were all born sinners and we will be sinners until the day we leave this flesh and blood body. Some of us are still saved into eternity, while some are not.

NOTE: If it seems we have repeated ourselves in this study, it is because we have. We believe there is remembrance in repetition.