

# Fulton County Gospel News

"The Churches of Christ Salute You"

Publication No. 211780

Second Class Postage Paid at Mammoth Spring, Ark.

Volume 16

Mammoth Spring, Arkansas 72554

September, 1982

No. 1

## When Is One Saved By Faith?

By Harold Turner

With some people the idea of salvation by faith must eliminate all other things as being essential to salvation. Some have expressed this idea in this way - "Salvation is by faith plus nothing." But even those who advocate this view will not hold to it. If asked, must a person love God in order to be saved, they answer, yes. If asked, must a person repent of his sins before he can be saved, they also answer, yes. If asked, if one must confess with his mouth the Lord Jesus, they also answer, yes. So, even though they claim to believe in salvation by faith alone, they do not hold to this view. Salvation by faith includes love, repentance, and the confession of Christ. If this is true, if salvation by faith does include these things, then perhaps it could include other things. We should want to know what is included in this idea of salvation by faith. When is one saved by faith?

In John 3:18 the Bible states, "He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God." From this statement there should be no question but that we are freed from condemnation by faith. But, does simply believing in Christ alone free one from condemnation? Is there nothing else involved other than our believing? Romans 8:1-2 states, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death." To be free from condemnation, we must be in Christ. Since it is sin that brings condemnation upon us, we must be made free from sin before we are free from condemnation. In Romans 6:17-18 Paul said that one is made free from sin when he obeys from the heart the form of doctrine that Paul had delivered. One is not made free simply by believing this form of doctrine, but by obeying it. What is this "form" of the doctrine that Paul preached? We know from I Cor. 15:1-4 that the doctrine Paul

preached was the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. To be made free from sin, and thereby condemnation, we must obey a "form" of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. The word "form" is derived from the Greek word, "tupos", and is defined as "the representation or pattern of anything". In Rom. 6:3-6 Paul clearly show what this "form" is, and how we obey it. He shows that we die to sin, are buried in baptism, and then raised from the baptism to walk in a newness of life. In verse 5, he stated, "For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection." We are made free from sin when we have put to death the old sinful person, bury the old man into the death of Christ, and are raised

from the grave of baptism to a new life in Christ. Thus, we are free from condemnation when we by faith are baptized into Christ.

Another Scripture that shows a blessing through faith is John 3:36, which states, "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life; and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him." There should be no question but that eternal life depends upon our having faith in Christ. But is our believing in Christ the only condition to receiving eternal life? We know that it is by faith that we have this life, but the question is, when by faith do we receive everlasting life? Do we receive this life before we repent of our sins? Do we re-

continued on page 4

## Churches of "Life"

By Aven Hook

Our churches, Biblically, should be quite different than what most of us expect a church to be. We, for the most part, look for a "church" that fulfills our personal desires, meets our social standards and ministers to our physical needs. We seek excitement rather than enlightenment; we seek the stirring rather than the securing.

Consequently, many "churches" have become religious consumer agencies competing with others for the favors of the preconverted (?) few. We have opted to become agencies of bartering to sway others of preconceived and capsuled ideas concerning worship. Our efforts are to persuade them there is no appreciable difference in our searches.

Those of us that attend often do so with the threat that if not pleased we will remove ourselves to another that is more pleasing. That threat only cultivates the crusade for people pleasing "churches".

The New Testament Church is to subdue the creation (Mark 16:15 and Gen. 1:28). Subduing is more than conquering

through powers of persuasion. It is imperative we evangelize and subdue by delivering Christ to the lost. To do this we must be a living entity, training living people to serve a living God.

Everything searches for and struggles for life. I repeat; everything seeks life. Take a small seed that is dried and shriveled giving the impression of being dead. Plant that small dead seed and life springs forth. People, too, are seeking life. It may be a misconception of life that causes us to seek the wrong things. Jesus clearly said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life: No one cometh unto the Father, but by me." (John 14:6.)

Our churches should be teaching Christ (Heb. 5:12) and delivering life (Heb. 6:9-12). It is important that we create life in those spiritually dead by delivering the teachings of Life (John 1:4). Biblical Churches are subduing and being subdued by giving up carnal life for eternal life. (Matt. 16:25) "Whosoever would save his life shall lose it: And whosoever shall lose his life for my sake shall find it."

## FULTON COUNTY GOSPEL NEWS

. . . is a monthly publication distributed free of charge to any who care to receive it. We will be happy to add any names to the regular mailing list. If you send in a name be SURE to include the Zip Code Number. It must be with each address according to the Postal regulations. This paper is supported by unsolicited contributions for which we are grateful. If you care to know the financial status and expenses, that information will be furnished upon request.

EDITOR . . . . . Mike Pace  
Publication No. 211780

# ONLY REMEDY FOR SIN

By Ordell Heavin

Read Proverbs 6:16-18. Who of us has not sinned in one, or more, of these things God hates? The apostle wrote "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God", (Romans 3:23). And just as plain, John writes, "If we say we have not sinned we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us . . . If we say we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us" (I John 1:8-10). All have sinned, none can claim immunity. The prophet wrote nearly 3,000 years ago, but it is still true; "All we like sheep have gone astray, we have turned everyone to his own way" (Isaiah 53:6). Our problem is not so much not knowing what we should do, but knowing and not doing it!

When Paul described sinners he could have been writing of today. "Be not deceived: neither fornicators, idolaters, adul-

terers, effeminate, abusers of themselves with men, nor thieves, covetous, drunkards, revilers, extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God." (I Cor. 6:9-10). Then he wrote of the problems faced by Christians: "Wretched, man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord?" (Rom. 7:24-25). Tragically, the recognition of how prevalent sin is, and the fact of universal temptation, causes too many of us to take sin lightly. But we dare not!

What is sin anyway? Three different terms are used in Exodus 34:7. Iniquity, transgression and sin. Iniquity is defined "perversity, misdeeds, unshamed." Iniquity properly applies to "immorality." Transgression is to step over, to rebel, to revolt and can be applied just as well to religious people: "ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears do always resist the Holy Spirit." (Acts 7:51). The word sin means "to miss the mark, fall short or fail" but is often used also with immoralities and rebellion. Regardless of precise definition, in many cases "we all stumble" (James 3:2). The prophet wrote "Behold the Lord's hand is not shortened that it cannot save: neither is his ears heavy, that he cannot hear: but your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear." (Isaiah 59:1-2). This passage reveals the terrible consequence of our sins: separated from God's love (I John 1:4,4:8).

To those who have been sinners, the apostle Paul wrote (Eph. 2:12), When people who are separated from God, "they shall proceed no further" (II Tim. 2:16). There is always the direction sin proceeds. All kinds of perversions result when one turns from God (Romans 1:21-28). The results of such living is plainly stated: "ye shall surely die" (Gen. 2:17). "The soul that sinneth it shall die" (Ezek. 18:20). "The wages of sin is death (Rom. 6:23). Only the blood of Christ can cleanse.

One wonderful thing about God is that he is willing to forgive, even though we have separated ourselves from Him by our own sins. "God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son" (John 3:16). "While we were yet weak, in due season Christ died for the ungodly . . . God commendeth his own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:6-8). Here is revealed the grace of God, that he loved us, even while we were yet sinners, and wanted us to come back to Him! And the reason He sent His Son into this world was that only His blood could cleanse us from our sins. Established in the sacrifices of the Old Testament, it is plainly stated in the New Testament "without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sins." (Hebrews 9:22). So Jesus went to the cross and shed His blood for the sins of the world, "Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holy place by

## No Deposit - No Return

By Mike Sinapiades

Imagine my surprise, and my embarrassment, when the manager of the store told me that the empty bottles I had brought were not redeemable. I had not noticed it but the words, No Deposit No Return, were clearly written on the bottles. As I was driving back home I thought of the many applications of life, that of the Christian in particular, that these four words have.

What is it in life that can be realized without effort? What kind of returns could we expect unless first we make the proper deposits? Can the farmer expect to receive a bountiful crop when he has sown sparingly? Can a man expect for a long and a healthy life when he has spent it in dissipation and waste? In a few terse words, the wise man stated: "As he thinketh in his heart, so he is." There's your application to the title of this short message! In the realm of the spiritual life however, what are some applications of the rule, which admittedly, brought me much unexpected embarrassment?

More than often, the majority of Christians do not seem to realize the beauty and happiness found in Christ. They follow Him, as they claim, but no apparent or appreciable change has come about in their lives. They are "plugged" in but no current flows through and no power is realized. Why the returns do not flow since the "deposits" have been made? Too many people have come to know the Christ of the Bible, yet somehow they have failed to be filled with his spirit, his love and the satisfying meaning of life which only he can give. There is one thing to be converted to him intellectually, accepting that is "cold" facts, and another accepting Christ the one who died in your place giving you full pardon, making you his brother and a child of his Father, literally snatching you out of the devil's eternal hell. It is one thing to state: I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of the Living God," and other to allow him to become the undisputed possessor of your entire being. It's easy to sing "Oh, How I Love Jesus . . ." but to love him with all your heart, soul, mind and strength (Matt. 12:30) is an entirely different thing all together. I could receive no returns from

those bottles simply because I had not deposited anything in the first place. Similarly, many today cannot receive the desired spiritual results simply because they have not truly "deposited" themselves into Christ. Convinced of Who He is, yes; but not converted to what he stands for. United with Christ through the watery grave of baptism, yes; but not immersed into him who said to follow me, you must deny your own self (Matt. 16:24).

Paul once wrote to his fellow Christians words that to many of us today seem a paradox. He stated, "And the peace of God, which passeth understanding shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Oh, how many have pondered upon these words, wondering as to why such a blessed promise cannot be realized in my own life? Why the turmoil and the agony, the unhappiness and discontentment? Am I not the child of God? Have I not been baptized and now follow his commandments? I go to church regularly and I give of my means . . . on and on we reason; still yet wondering as to why we cannot experience the inner peace which is understanding. But in essence, when we reason in this way, are we saying any more than the rich young ruler did? A person may keep the command of one man for one woman. Yet, unless his or her heart is in it, how the happiness intended within marriage can be realized? By simply keeping a command? It is seriously doubted as to whether the "abundant life" could ever be realized by simply keeping commandments without, on the other hand, giving ourselves totally and completely to Christ. There's where the true "depositing" come in. Have we really placed our thoughts, energies, interests, talents, our very life into Christ? Neither Paul nor our Master who stated, "My peace give I unto you," spoke of the superficial freedom from external trouble; they both had in mind of the "deep-seated harmony with God the Source of all peace." Returns come only after deposits are made — this is a universal law. Have you deposited yourselves into Christ?

# Am I Really Getting Through?

By Mike Pace

Even though we pray often, many of us doubt the effectiveness of our prayers. This is illustrated daily. A woman prays fervently over the bed of her critically ill boy; when he is healed, she explains to friends, "He just had the best doctors in the world!" A man is out of work. He and his wife pray for a new job with a good income; it comes and they say, "We were really lucky!" Somehow, even when prayer is answered positively, we seek some other explanation.

One of the reasons, perhaps, is that we have a misconception of our Father God. He is not the senile old man of the skies, giving in only when he wants to and holding back when he wants to. He is the living, personal, compassionate Father who promises to be consistent. Like an earthly father is concerned for his children, our heavenly Father is concerned for his. Jesus put it this way: "What man of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your

the blood of Jesus," (Hebrews 10:19). "In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of trespasses according to the riches of his grace." (Eph. 1:7). It is by the blood of Jesus that we are "Reconciled to God" (Romans 5:10). Without that blood we would be forever separated from God. God offers us cleansing, but he does not force it on anyone. Jesus invites, "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest." (Matt. 11:28)

Sinners were told by the apostles "Save yourselves from this untoward generation" (Acts 2:40). It's our choice whether we remain in sin or are saved by the blood of Christ. Christ died for all, but not all will be saved (Matt. 7:13-14). Then who will, and on what basis? Paul answers in Romans 3:23-25. That is why Jesus said, "If you do not believe that I am he, ye shall die in your sins" (John 8:24). Faith gives us access to the grace of God. By grace are ye saved through faith (Eph. 2:8). The blood of Christ will not save anyone who continues in sin. "I tell you nay: except you repent, ye shall likewise perish" (Luke 12:3). Confess Christ (Acts 8:37; Rom. 10:10). Buried in baptism (Rom. 6:4; Acts 2:38; Gal. 3:27). Sin separates us from God, but by his grace, we can come back to fellowship with him "by the blood of the cross." **THAT'S GOD'S REMEDY FOR SIN.** There is NO other.

*"What can wash away my sins?  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus."*

Father who is in heave give good things to those who ask him!" (Matt. 7:9-11).

Jesus also said, "And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith" (Matt. 21:22). "Aha," someone says, "there I've got you, because there have been many times when I did not get what I asked for!"

Yes, there are times when God does not answer prayer as we would expect him to, but what are the circumstances? The Bible gives us four logical reasons.

1. **"You do not have, because you do not ask"** (James 4:2). We give up on prayer like spoiled children who do not get everything they want **when** they want it. The Lord wants to know that we constantly trust in him and will pray often our requests and our praise.

2. **"You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions"** (James 4:3). Can we identify some of our prayers in this way: constantly demanding **things** for our own gratification? Or do our prayers take on the character of those concerned not only with self, but with the needs and salvation of others?

3. **"... if we ask anything according to his will he hears us"** (1 John 5:14). Does your earthly father give you everything you want? Why not? Because in many cases, his experience tells him it would be unwise for you. Certainly our all-knowing Father God, caring deeply for his children, will wisely give us spiritual and physical blessings as he sees they will enhance our spiritual life, but he would not be God if he gave us everything we wanted - even those things which were not good for us. Jesus once asked God to allow the physical suffering of the cross to pass from him, but he said, "not my will but thine be done." Just think where we would be today if Christ had **not** died on the cross! But Christ endured even the painful cross, because his Father's will was being done! And in that cross we are saved.

4. **"If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened"** (Psalm 66:18). The person who has turned his life over to evil living cannot expect God to heed his prayers like he does for those who are trying to live for him. If he did, he would not be consistent, because he is all-righteous (1 John 1:5).

But why is it that we always deal with the negatives of prayer? There are so many positive things which the Bible says

and so many testimonies both in the Bible and in current happenings which speak of the power of prayer.

**For example, John writes of the value of prayer to the person who is doing what the Bible says:** "And we receive from him whatever we ask, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him" (1 John 3:22).

**Jesus speaks again to give confidence to those who are truly his disciples.** "If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you" (John 15:7).

**In addition, James, writes that "the prayer of a righteous man has great power"** (James 5:16). And indeed it does. We could spend days talking about the prayers of Christians all over the world whose prayers have been answered so abundantly!

Is it any wonder then that the apostle Paul says that we should "have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God" (Philippians 4:6).

Christians need to let go of all their hangups on prayer. We need to express more confidence - more faith - in the hand of a wise Father caring for his own children. We need to learn maturity and be able to deal with ourselves when God does not do exactly what we want him to do.

Let's praise God that he is our Father and that he wisely answers our prayers. And let's also have more assurance that our prayers are heard, just as John did when he wrote: "And this is the confidence which we have in him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have obtained the requests made of him" (1 John 5:14, 15).

## CONTRIBUTIONS CHURCHES OF CHRIST

Big Pond . . . . .	\$24.00
Viola . . . . .	5.00
Elizabeth . . . . .	5.00
Agnos . . . . .	5.00
Jeff . . . . .	10.00
Garfield . . . . .	15.00
Gamaliel . . . . .	10.00

## INDIVIDUALS

Boyd & Evelyn Anthony . . . . .	\$20.00
Joe T. Robinson . . . . .	65.00
William G. Roberts . . . . .	5.00
Geneva Spencer Jones . . . . .	5.00
Raymond Long . . . . .	5.00
Herbert Ross . . . . .	15.00

## WHEN IS ONE SAVED BY FAITH?

continued from page 1

ceive it before we come to love the Lord? Do we receive it before we confess Christ before others? If any one of these is required, then we do not receive it by faith alone. In I John 5:11-12 the Bible states, "And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life." This passage identifies the place where we receive eternal life, that being in Christ. Until we get into Christ, we do not have life. How do we get into Christ? Romans 10:10 teaches that both belief and confession are essential - "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." Acts 11:18 shows that God grants "repentance unto life." Both Romans 6:3 and Galatians 3:27 state that we are "baptized into Christ." Since eternal life is in Christ, and we are baptized into Christ, it must be at this point that we receive this blessing by faith. Faith, confession, and repentance are all "unto", that is, in the direction of, but baptism puts us "into" Christ where we receive the blessing of eternal life.

In Acts 15:9, Peter, speaking about the Gentiles, said, "And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts

by faith." This passage clearly states that hearts are purified by faith. But we question, when by faith? In I Peter 1:22, Peter wrote, "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth . . ." Evidently these two passages refer to the same thing. They refer to purifying the heart or soul from sin. This blessing is accomplished "by faith", but only when faith causes one to obey.

There are many blessings that are ours to enjoy because we believe in Jesus. Our faith is the basis upon which we receive them. However, none of the blessings promised by faith are promised by faith alone. Notice, for example, how this is applied to our justification. In Romans 5:1 Paul states, "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." Now, notice from James 2:24 how that God does not want us to misunderstand and misapply this statement, "Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only." So, while one is justified by faith, it is not by faith only. James shows that our faith must be coupled with works of obedience before it will bless us. In verse 14 James asks, "What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? Can faith save him?" Faith without works of obedience cannot save, but when we put our faith into action by doing the will of God, then we will be saved and blessed by faith.

If we want to properly understand and apply God's word, we must not read a verse and jump to the conclusion that this one verse is all that the Bible has to say on the matter. The Bible does teach that we are saved by faith in Jesus, but it also teaches that there are other things that are essential to being saved. Faith that does not lead one to love God will not save. Faith that does not lead one to repent of his sins will not save. Faith that does not lead one to confess his faith in Christ before others will not save. And faith that will not lead one to be baptized will not save. Whatever the Bible teaches about salvation must be applied. May we learn to search for all that the Bible has to say on any subject before we make a decision about its meaning.

## How to Become a Christian

The most important question ever asked is: "What must I do to be saved?" (Acts 16:30). Then, the **HOW** become equally as important. Notice the step by step process. First, we must have faith in the Author and Finisher of our faith, Jesus Christ. (Heb. 12:2). This faith comes by the hearing of the word of God. (Rom. 10:17). "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." (Heb. 11:6). With the belief and trust that Jesus is the Redeemer, we must repent of sins. "And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent." (Acts 17:30). In repentance, we turn from sin, **STOP** serving Satan and **START** serving the Lord. (Matt 3:8, Luke 13:

3). With this new attitude we are ready to confess our faith, *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.*" (Rom. 10:9-10). Read Matthew 10:32-33. Acknowledging our faith, repentance and confession, the last step into Christ is baptism. "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." (Gal. 3:27). Read Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38. Now that our past sins have been forgiven, the Lord has added us to His church and we are Christians. (Acts 2:47; Acts 11:26).

**BECOME A CHRISTIAN**