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Knowledge of Salvation

By Lavern Stewart

Can we know that we are children of God? Some say that they have a "feeling" that assures them of salvation. However, the Bible shows that we do not have knowledge of salvation from one or all of the five senses, but by faith (2 Cor. 5:7), "For we walk by faith, and not by sight." Sight is one of the senses, as is feeling. If one can know that he is saved by the way he feels, then John was wrong when he taught that by God's written Word people know they are saved (1 John 5:13).

Others claim that the Holy Spirit "witnessed" to them that they were children of God. The Spirit does witness as to whether or not one is a child of God, but He does it in a different way to what these claim. The passage upon which they rely is Romans 8:16, "The Spirit himself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are children of God." Note that the verse said "with" not "to" our spirit. In this passage it requires two witnesses to establish the fact of sonship -- the Holy Spirit's testimony and that of man's spirit also. But how does the Spirit witness or testify?

In Neh. 9:30, we are told that the Spirit testifies in, or by, the prophets. Further, in Heb. 10:15-17, a quotation from Jeremiah is called the testimony of the Spirit. David said that the Spirit spoke by him, and that the Spirit's word was in his mouth (2 Sam. 23:2). So the Spirit was testifying by inspiring David to speak or write. We are informed that holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit, 2 Peter 1:21. Jesus promised the apostles that the Spirit would come and thereby they would witness to the world (John 15:26-27). Also the Spirit would convict men of sins, which he did by the preaching of the apostles (John 16:8; read also Acts 2:4, 27).

Consider carefully: we learn that we are sinners because the Bible tells us we are, then in the same way we know that we are saved because the Bible tells us what to do so as to be saved (Mark 16:16). The "good feeling", or joy, comes after we have obeyed (Acts 8:39).

Can One Believe a Lie and Be Lost?

By Glynn V. Purdy

After the tribes of Israel divided into two kingdoms (Israel and Judah) the kingdom of Israel was led away from God by Jeroboam. Jeroboam set up two golden calves as gods to be worshipped, one at Bethel and the other at Dan. He instructed the people that it was too much trouble for them to go up to Jerusalem to worship, and convinced them that it would be safe for them to worship these idols. At that time true worship for the Israelites had to be rendered in the city of Jerusalem. These people obviously reasoned that any place would be fine as long as the people were pleased. This sin cut the kingdom of Israel off from God, and from the kingdom of Judah.

Did God ignore this sin? Jeroboam made priests from the tribes other than Levi, which also displeased God. So under these sinful conditions, God sent a prophet from Judah to condemn this practice. This prophet was given specific instructions from God. Instructions which he both understood and with great integrity determined to follow at all cost. Jeroboam tried to compromise and bribe this prophet, but he would have no part of it. In fact, he informed Jeroboam, "If thou wilt give me half thine house, I will not go with thee, neither will I eat bread nor drink water in this place; for so was it charged me by the word of the Lord, saying, 'Eat no bread, nor drink water, nor turn again by the same way that thou camest.'" (1 Kings 13:8-9). This prophet understood God's will and he was determined to obey it. So he completed his mission, standing against all bribes and temptations and was ready to return home according to God's command. All looked well and promising for this prophet.

But he ran into a problem. There dwelt an old prophet in the land of Jeroboam. This old prophet's son saw what God did to Jeroboam's altar and heard the prophecy concerning the worship established by Jeroboam. They returned home and told their father. He instructed them to saddle his donkey and he went in search for the prophet of God.

He found him sitting under an oak and invited him into his house. Here again the prophet repeated what he had said to Jeroboam and refused to disobey God. The prophet of God, like so many today, was not prepared for the answer from the old prophet - a false prophet! The old prophet said, "I am a prophet also as thou art; and an angel spake unto me by the word of the Lord, saying, Bring him back with thee unto thine house, that he may eat bread and drink water. But he lied unto him. (Vr. 18.)"

The Bible today was ONCE delivered, and has everything to make a man perfect, and God condemns all that will add to or take from it (Jude 3; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; Gal. 1:8-10). Even an angel which should preach another gospel is condemned. Yet false teachers are claiming to see angels, Jesus, Mary, have dreams, etc., and thus draw millions away from the simple instructions from God, as how to be saved and worship God. But, like the old prophet, they lie! We must TRY these false prophets today, for they are many (1 John 4:1-5). The young prophet believed this lie, disobeyed God, and returned home with the false prophet. Because he disobeyed God, he was not allowed to return home. He believed a lie and lost his life. I am sure he was honest and sincere!

Can it happen today? Yes indeed, it can! "For after they have escaped the pollution of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled and overcome, the second state is worse with them than the first." (2 Peter 2:20.) "And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them a strong delusion, that they should believe a lie; That they might be damned who believe not the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness." (2 Thess. 2:8-10). When we read the Bible, we KNOW that this is God speaking. But we only have a

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Can One Believe A Lie (Cont.)

man's word that he heard an angel, Jesus, etc. Even IF he did, and the message is different than that of the Bible, it would be a lie, and those who follow such teaching will be damned, and lose their souls like the prophet. The Bible is the standard of authority in all religious matters. If some claim to have seen something or had a vision, what good purpose could it serve? If he is told to ignore some of the Bible he is condemned and his followers. If he is told to add to the Bible, he is condemned and his followers. If he is told what is in the Bible, no useful purpose can be served. The writers of the Bible were inspired by God, we can trust them. Today, false teachers are telling us, "But I am inspired too!" Jude tells us that the faith was ONCE delivered, why should we care for a "second" delivery? We must take heed and watch for false prophets who lie. (Matt. 7:15; 24:4-5.) Guard your soul, it is the only one you will ever have!

The Root of All Evil

By W. L. Totty

The apostle Paul, in writing to Timothy about coveting worldly treasures, said, "For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out." (1 Tim. 6:7). That statement is just as true for us today as it was to people in the days of Paul and Timothy. We may strive for riches in this world; but life is short, and we are soon taken away, and the riches are all left behind. Jesus spoke a parable which teaches the foolishness of trusting in riches. In that parable there was a certain rich man, whose ground brought forth plentifully so that he did not have room to store all his fruit. He said, "I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods." (Luke 12:18) But Jesus called that man a fool, saying, "Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou has provided?" (Vr. 20)

The apostle Paul told Timothy, "For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows." (1 Tim. 6:10) The American Standard Version says that the love of money is the root of "all kinds of evil". There are some people who would commit any kind of crime or sin to obtain money, or refuse to keep any commandment enjoined upon God's children, knowing that the ultimate end is condemnation to their souls.

There was a young man who came to Jesus and asked, "Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?" (Mk. 10:17). Jesus reminded him of some commandments to keep; and he answered, "Master, all these have I observed from my youth." (Vr. 20) The Bible says that Jesus "loved him" but said unto him, "One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me." (Vr. 21) But when Jesus told the young man to sell all he had and give it to the poor, the Bible says, he was sad and "went away grieved: for he had great possessions." (Vr. 22) Jesus looked at his disciples and said, "How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God?" (Vr. 23).

That young man has been dead for many centuries, and all his riches went to someone else. But, unless he later repented and did as Jesus commanded, when judgment day comes and he meets Jesus again, the Lord will say to him: Depart from me: I know you not. If the young man could go back to his time in life when he met Jesus the first time,

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**The Sabbath Day
Law No. 2**

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In our last article we mentioned that the law of Moses was given to the Israelites, and to them only (Deut. 5: 2-3). This should be understood and accepted by all because the statement is given by inspiration. In studying this matter further, let us now notice Exod. 24: 12-13, "And the Lord said unto Moses, Come up to me into the mount, and be there: and I will give thee tables of stone, and a law, and commandments which I have written; that thou mayest teach them. And Moses rose up, and his minister Joshua; and Moses went up into the mount of God." "And he gave unto Moses, when he had made an end of communing with him upon mount Sinai, two tables of testimony, tables of stone, written with the finger of God." (Exod. 31:18). "And he declared unto you his covenant, which he commanded you to perform, even ten commandments; and he wrote them upon two tables of stone." (Deut. 4:13). It was here on this mount of Sinai (also known as Horeb) that Moses received the tables of stone, and a law and commandments, one of which was, "Remember the sabbath, to keep it holy." Now look closely at Deut. 5: 1-3, "And Moses called all Israel, and said unto them, Hear, O Israel, the statutes and judgments which I speak in your ears this day, that ye may learn them, and keep, and do them. The Lord our God made a covenant with us in Horeb. The Lord made not this covenant with our fathers, but with us, even us, who are all of us here alive this day." The covenant, which included the law, "Remember the sabbath, to keep it holy." was given to Israel only, and was not given for man's observance prior to Israel's deliverance from Egypt. This law was not given to the former dispensation, being the Patriarchial age, and was never to be bound upon any people since the law of Moses, given at mount Sinai, was nailed to the cross, (Col. 2:14, "Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross.")

Question: What law was taken out of the way being nailed to the cross? When this question is answered, you will begin to see what Paul meant, when he said in Eph. 3:4-6, "Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ, Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit." What was this mystery that has now been

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Help for Parents

By Ordell Heavin

Being a parent in these days is perhaps the most challenging task on earth. It is joyous because "children are an heritage of the Lord" (Psalm 127:3), yet it demands the responsibility to "train up a child in the way it should go" (Prov. 22:6). Surrounding our off-spring with the cultured environment of Christianity and setting "our house in order" (Eph. 6:4; 2 Kings 20:7) is no simple duty.

Ann Landers, newspaper columnist with millions of readers around the world, has sadly chronicled the facts that many parents wish they had never had children. Child abuse and child abandonment are reaching all-time record highs in our nation. On the other side of the coin, we are all aware of the lack of respect millions of children around the globe manifest toward their parents. Instead of obeying their fathers and mothers (Eph. 6:1), many off-spring curse them. Too many parents, like Eli of old, restrain not their children (1 Sam. 3:13), and thus through lack of discipline in the home, send boys and girls out into the world as rebellious anarchists (Prov. 13:1; 15:5).

A lack of parental guidance in spiritual matters is evident in most homes. The emphasis on material matters drowns out godliness in our lives, and the church and nation suffers. Delinquency - both juvenile and parental - is America's death rattle. A clever poet stated several years ago:

When Mama plays the cards
And Papa plays the races
The children play the devil
And kick out the traces.

Godly parents need all the help they can get. Their task is made harder by the lack of backbone other parents manifest in allowing their children to engage in worldliness and the seeking after popularity (Gal. 1:10) through compromise (Matt. 6:24).

Due to the inordinate impact of television, pornography, nudity in magazines, and movies, and the sex mania flooding our nation, parents who try to serve the Lord are almost overwhelmed by the vast majority who march relentlessly toward hell.

As Christians we deserve the help of fellow-devotees of the Saviour. Bible teachers ought to strengthen the hands of spiritual mothers and dads by teaching plainly the Holy Scriptures in every class. To do this properly, teachers must study diligently (Psalm 119:15-16) and never misuse or abuse the precious time given them to help mold the minds of boys and girls entrusted to them. Gospel preachers can, and must, help parents by presenting lessons that challenge, deepen and enrichen all of us - children included. This cannot be done by shallow lessons. We

Can Morals be Legislated?

By Winfred Clark

Recently, in a conversation relative to alcoholic beverages, the observation was made that morals cannot be legislated. The conclusion is that if men are going to drink they will drink anyway.

I am well aware that people are going to do what they want to do. If men are going to do right consistently, it will be because they will to do so. But, should we say that since some are going to do wrong, no laws should be made to restrict wrong? This kind of thing will come up in almost every case where voters are asked to decide whether to legalize the sale of alcoholic beverages. They observe that men are going to do it, so we might as well make it legal and reap (?) the taxes. They don't look at the tax on decent people's sense of right. They don't think of the taxing of a wife's nerves because of a drunken husband.

But back to the matter of morals and legislation. In legislation there are laws made that govern conduct. Has God used any laws in the area of morals?

A casual look at the ten commandments will show that God did legislate in the area of morals. Read Exodus 20:3-17. Note verse 13, "Thou shalt not kill." This is a matter of legislation. A matter of law. Yes, men had been killing one another. It was not right when Cain killed Abel. Could God legislate a moral standard here? He did. Also, in the matter of adultery, stealing, and lying. These are made a matter of law.

But, says one, we are under the New Testament. This is true and I agree wholeheartedly, but does the New Testament not legislate? Are there laws regulating man's conduct in the New Testament? Notice Eph. 4:28. Paul makes it a matter of law in the matter of stealing. He even goes a step further and

tells the man to work so as to give. Yes, if he obeys the gospel and is regulated by the gospel he will not want to steal. He will want to work so as to aid others. But, the point remains, a matter of morals is here legislated.

The moral code for the Christian is repeated time and again in the New Testament. Not only for the Christian, but also for those who should become such.

One area where this matter comes to the forefront today is in the area of marriage. God's laws regulating marriage have been legislated out of existence by conflicting laws in many states. They have made void God's laws by man's laws. Matt. 19:3-9 allows remarriage for one cause, namely fornication. Of course, all would agree that the death of either partner would allow for remarriage, all things being equal. Now, the matters concerning marriage are moral matters. The set moral standards. A violation of the standards of morality in marriage would free the innocent party to remarry. But, the same law requires, legislates if you will, that a state of adultery exists if fornication is not present. God just meant that this state is to be protected by law. His law. To say he has no laws regarding marriage is to ignore the obvious.

Sad to say, men have stepped in and made void His law by their commandments or laws. Such laws allow immorality with legal sanction. The same can be said where the sale of alcoholic drinks or gambling is legalized (?). Such laws trample under foot God's laws and send a nation at high speed down the road to ruin. If more laws were passed to support the moral laws of the Bible, we would be a better nation.

The Sabbath Day Law (Cont.)

revealed by the apostles? Vr. 6, "That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel." This promise to Jew and Gentile alike was not by the law, but by the gospel (Rom. 4:13, Gal. 3:16-18). As mentioned in the first part of this article, and Deut. 5:2-3, the law, which included the sabbath keeping, was to the Jews and to them alone. Why was the sabbath law given to Israel? Read Deut. 5:15, "And remember that thou wast a servant in the land of Egypt and that the Lord thy God brought thee out thence, through a mighty hand and by a stretched out arm; therefore the Lord thy God commanded thee to keep the sabbath day." Why was the sabbath given Israel? Because of their deliverance from Egypt they were to keep and remember the sabbath. It was not the Gentiles, but the Israelites who were delivered out of Egypt.

must preach the word in truth and purity (2 Tim. 4:1-2), and by "speaking as the oracles of God" (1 Peter 4:11). And as parents we need the help of godly elders in the body of Christ. Those who watch for our souls (Heb. 13:17) must keep the church pure, holy, so that our children can find in God's family a haven, a refuge, and what home is like. God ordained that we have three homes: (1) A Christian home, (2) A church home, (3) and an eternal home. May God help all of us to help one another in the battle against Satan, sin, and self. Together we can rear a generation that glorifies our Maker here and in the world to come. Children obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Parents don't provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. (Eph. 6:1-4).

Saved by Grace through Faith plus Healing

By Harold Turner

Recently I heard a person make the statement, "We are saved by grace through faith plus nothing." He further declared that this was the pure gospel which Paul preached to the Gentile world.

It's doubtful that any would deny that we are saved by grace through faith, but when you add the "plus nothing" then you have a controversial subject. In Eph. 2:8 the Bible states that we are saved by grace through faith, but it doesn't add the "plus nothing". This idea is not even implied in this statement.

To be saved by grace through faith "plus nothing" is to exclude any other action as a condition for salvation. It would exclude repentance as a prerequisite to salvation, along with love and the confession of our faith in Christ, and any other thing we might consider necessary.

Is "Salvation by grace through faith plus nothing" the gospel that Paul preached? In Acts 17:30 Paul preached that God "commandeth all men every where to repent." In Acts 26:20 he preached that "men should repent and turn to God." No one can turn to God apart from repenting first. We must turn away from sins before we can turn to God. To be saved we must repent. In Acts 2:38 people are told to "Repent and be baptized . . . for the remission of sins." And in Acts 3:19 to "Repent and be converted that your sins may be blotted out." Jesus stated plainly, "Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." (Luke 13:3, 5). There is no way that one can place salvation before repentance scripturally. Too, in Rom. 10:9, 10 Paul preached that we must confess Christ before being saved: "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus . . . For with the heart confession is made unto salvation." Since Paul stated that this confession is "Unto salvation" we would understand it to be a condition one must meet before being saved. So rather than adding a "plus nothing" to Eph. 2:8, we must include repentance and the confession of Christ as requirements to salvation.

In addition to this, Paul wrote in Rom. 6:17, 18 that one is made free from sin when he "Obey[s] from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered." We are not made free from sin when we believe the gospel, but when we obey it.

The apostle Peter also stated this in 1 Pet. 1:22, "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth." There is something to be obeyed, as well as believed, before one can be saved.

In Acts 2:37 those who heard the gospel asked, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" Not what shall we believe, but do. And the apostles, who were speaking as the Spirit guided them (Acts 2:4) did not tell these that there is nothing for you to do, that you are saved by grace through faith plus nothing. They commanded them, saying, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins . . ." This is what they were required to DO to be saved.

"But", some will say, "This is what was preached to the Jews, not the Gentiles." In Acts 15:9 the apostle Peter, while discussing the Gentile converts, said, "God put no difference between us and them . . ." When Jesus gave the great commission, he said in Mark 16:15, "Go ye therefore into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." This clearly shows that there was but one gospel designed for every creature throughout the world. There isn't one gospel for the Jew and another for the Gentile. In Eph. 3:6 Paul discusses the fact that God's plan is the same for both, saying, "That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel." There is but one gospel through which both Jew and Gentile are united in the one body of Christ (Eph. 2:16). In 1 Cor. 12:13 Paul said, "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free . . ." The idea of one gospel for the Jew and another for the Gentile did not originate with God, but with men who would "trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ."

The only place where any person is saved is in Christ (Acts 4:12). Those outside Christ are lost (Eph. 2:12). And there are only two scriptures that very plainly tell us how we get into Christ. Rom. 6:3 states, "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Christ were baptized into his death." And Gal. 3:27, "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." Now, since salvation is only in Christ, and we are baptized INTO Christ, how can any person conclude that we are saved before we are baptized into Christ?

Salvation is not by grace through faith plus nothing. Jesus made it clear that no person can be saved apart from DOING the will of the Father which is in heaven (Matt. 7:21). In James 2:24 the Holy Spirit tells us, "Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only." Christ has promised to save those who obey him, (Heb. 5:9). His grace makes it all possible, may we have wisdom to humbly accept his grace by obeying all that he commands us to do.

The Root of All Evil (Cont.)

knowing what he will know at the judgment, he would be perfectly willing, I am sure, to give up everything that he had gained of this world's goods in order to escape the condemnation that he will have purchased with his money.

However, a person who is not rich by the world's standard can likewise lose his soul because of a love of money. One dollar could send a person's soul to death if he loved that dollar more than he loved God. Jesus said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." (John 14:15) In spite of the commandment of God not to forsake the assembling on the first day of the week (Heb. 10:25), there are people in our age who will choose to work on the Lord's day when it is not mandatory, because they are paid more wages than on any other day of the week. Such a one is selling his soul just as surely as the person did in Christ's day. Jesus said, "And seek not ye what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, neither be ye of doubtful mind . . . But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you." (Luke 12:29, 31)