

WHY I AM A MEMBER OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST #16

I Am A Member Of The Church Of Christ Because...

IT BELIEVES AND TEACHES SALVATION IS BY "FAITH," BUT NOT BY "FAITH ONLY."

The Bible says, "...being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Rom. 5:1). Faith in God, the Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ, and the Holy Bible, is essential for salvation. "**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). Faith only comes by hearing/reading the word of God (Rom. 10:17).

Faith comes as a result of testimony — evidence. Faith is not a blind "leap in the dark" where one says there is no evidence upon which to have faith. In John 20:30-31, the inspired apostle John wrote, "**And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book** (the gospel of John): But **these** (signs, miracles) **are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.**"

Jesus prayed that all mankind would believe on Him through the inspired Word of the apostles (John 17:20). All who were saved in the book of Acts, first believed (had faith), after hearing the Word of the Gospel (Acts 4:4; 8:12-13; 11:20-21; 14:1; 17:11-12; 17:32-34; 18:8; 28:23-24).

As important and essential as faith is to salvation, faith "alone" or faith "only"

will not and can not save! If there is anything clear in the Bible, it is this point. The Holy Spirit said, "**Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only**" (James 2:24). This passage is not teaching salvation by "works only," but is emphasizing the fact that salvation is by faith when made active/alive by works (obedience to God). If salvation were by "faith only," then the demons would be saved for even they believe and tremble (James 2:19).

Saving faith is a faith that works, a faith that obeys, a faith that acts. Faith that does not obey is no faith at all. One who says he has faith and does not work (obey) is one that has a dead (barren) faith (James 2:17,29,26). Do you believe James? Some don't believe him and actually say that the book of James does not belong in the Bible! They have their mind made up and refuse to believe the inspired Scriptures. No salvation in that!

Abraham and Rahab are given as inspired examples of individuals who had saving faith (James 2:21-26). Both were saved by faith, but only AFTER (not before), they obeyed. Hebrews 11 shows a working/obedient faith. In every example, they were justified AFTER they obeyed/worked! Not before.

Saving faith will cause you to obey God: **Believe** in Jesus (John 8:24), **Repent** of your sins (Luke 13:3), **Confess** faith in Jesus the Christ (Matt. 10:32) and be **Baptized** for forgiveness of sins (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38).

Why delay? Won't you obey the Gospel today (2 Cor. 6:2)?

— Garland M. Robinson