

NEWS

Joanne Krier, Richard Tapparo's sister who lived in Wisconsin, passed away this past Tuesday afternoon. She was 82 years old. She had been in declining health for a few years. Our sincere sympathy is extended to Richard and all of his loved ones—**Kenneth and Beverly Amerson** were doing better by the middle of last week, but earlier Kenneth had breathing problems and Beverly had some sciatica problems—**William White** is still making improvement from the bronchitis and pneumonia he had earlier—**Terry Jordan** saw his (continued on page 3)

ELDERS:

Bob Arnold 563-2977
Leon Goff 572-6809
Kendall Johnson 717-0265
Richard Montgomery—
936-577-4819

DEACONS:

Ricky Davis 572-9428
Ken Ferguson 572-4135
Pat Marshall 572-9347

SERVICES:

Sunday

Bible Study 9:45 AM
Worship 10:30 AM
Worship 5:00 PM

Wednesday

Ladies Class 10:00 AM
Bible Study 7:00 PM

PREACHERS:

Drew Nelson 254-541-3815
Leon Goff 572-6809

ASSIGNMENTS FOR:

May 24, 2020

Serving The Lord's Supper

Sunday Morning

Scripture:

Sunday Evening

PRAYERS

Sun. AM— (Opening)

— (Closing)

PM— (Opening)

— (Closing)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A.M.—

P.M.—

(call Pat Marshall if unable to serve)

Think It Over—If you were to die today...Where would you spend eternity? To all who love God, and to those who do not, but should, to all who are weary and heavy laden; to all who are lonely and sad; to all who sin and need a Savior, and to whosoever will come a hearty welcome is extended.

Southside
Church of Christ
P.O. Box 242
Mt. Pleasant, TX 75456

Southside Church of Christ

Bulletin

1220 E. Ferguson Rd. Mt. Pleasant, Texas 75455

(903) 572-2148

Website: www.thesouthsidechurch.com

Volume XXVII

May 24, 2020

Number 14

Justification By Faith

By Leon Goff

The Bible clearly teaches we are justified (saved) by Faith. But what is involved and included in this "Faith?" The scriptures also explicitly teach that salvation is by Grace (**Eph. 2:8**). What if someone taught that salvation is by grace, not by Christ or the death of Christ? Wouldn't we all agree that this can't be true. Don't we all understand that salvation by God's grace includes all that God through Christ did for our salvation?

Salvation is by Grace through **Faith**. But most of Protestant teaching says that the "faith" is "faith only," (believing in the heart only without any further acts of obedience) is all that can be included in "faith" so far as salvation is concerned. If we can understand that salvation by grace includes everything God has done for our salvation, why should it be so difficult to see that salvation by faith includes everything God has commanded us to do to receive salvation?

Let's see what the scriptures includes in salvation by faith.

(1) **Salvation by "The Faith," The Gospel of Christ!** Paul wrote in **Galatians 1:22-23**: "And I was unknown by face to the churches of Judea which were in Christ. But they were hearing only, 'He who formerly persecuted us now preaches the faith which he once tried to destroy.'" In the same chapter, **v.11**, Paul wrote that he preached the gospel. In **Romans 1:16-17**, He further taught that the gospel is God's power to salvation to all who believe, "For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, 'The just shall live by faith.'" So, the Gospel of Christ is "The Faith" revealed in order to produce "faith" (belief) in the hearts of people. And Paul also tells us there is "**one faith**," **one Gospel**. (**Eph. 4:4; Gal. 1:8, 9**).

In the book of **Galatians**, the specific "law" Paul contrasts with "the faith" is the Law of Moses, given 430 years after God made the promise to Abra-

ham that he would bless all nations through his “seed,” the Christ. **(Galatians 3:16-17)**. He continues in **3:22-25**, “... that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law (of Moses), kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed. Therefore the law (of Moses) was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.

Note, “*faith came*” and was “*revealed*.” This is not the believing in our hearts, but the gospel God promised to Abraham **(Gal. 3:8)**. This is more of the “*from faith to faith*” **(Rom. 1:17)**. The law of Moses was not the fulfillment, neither was it against God’s promise of faith. The law was given to point people to the coming Christ. Paul tells us the Christ was the goal (end) of the law **(Rom. 10:4)**. Why couldn’t the people under Law of Moses be saved without Christ? The Law without Christ would have to be kept perfectly (not one sin, sinless perfection) in order to provide justification **(Gal. 3:10)**. **Justification only comes through Christ and His Gospel, “The Faith.”**

(2) Salvation is through Believing in Christ and His Gospel. (John 3:16; Rom. 1:16-17). “*The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you*

will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness (justification), and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.” Is salvation by “faith only?” If so, then confession with the mouth is left out, or its not “faith only.” And what about the passages that teach the necessity of repentance? In **John 6:29**, Jesus said, “*This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.*” And he wasn’t saying that God is the one doing the believing. It is something we must do. There will be no salvation to unbelievers.

(3) Salvation by Obedience to The Faith. In writing to the saints at Rome, Paul in speaking of Christ and his resurrection, said: “*Through Him we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations for his name (Romans 1:5)*. Paul was called to be Christ’s apostle to preach the gospel (the faith) to all nations so they could obey the faith. He repeats the same point at the end of **Romans**, “*for obedience to the faith*” **(16:25-26)**. “*Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.*” **(Rom. 6:3-4)**. In the context Paul is explaining how they have died to the guilt of sin and being freed from sin. This death to the guilt of sin took place when they were baptized into the death of Jesus and raised

from baptism to walk the new life freed from the guilt of past sins **(Rom. 6:1-7)**. And **6:17-18** confirms this: “*But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.*”

“*For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.*” **(Gal. 3:26-27)**. Paul puts confession and baptism under salvation by faith, not salvation by works of law. Baptism, repentance and confession based on belief in Christ are no part of the Law of Moses. They are of “*The Faith*,” the Gospel of Christ. Remember, if salvation by Grace includes all that God did for our salvation, why wouldn’t salvation by faith include all that God requires of us to receive salvation?

=====

SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT OFFERING CRITICISM
Revelation 2:19

“*I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience and thy works; and the last to be more than the first.*”

There is something very interesting about this verse. The letter to the church at Thyatira is to be a letter of warning and of criticism, and yet it begins with a verse of undiluted praise. Here is something which every preacher and teacher, indeed every

Christian, must learn. Real criticism must always encourage and never discourage. When we have reason to rebuke or to criticize anyone, we must make it clear that we are doing so, not because we dislike him, but because we like him; not because we hate him, but because we love him; not because we think that he is useless, but because we think that he has it in him to be useful; not because we wish to hurt him, but because we wish to help him. That is why criticism will often be most effective when it begins with praise. It is wise to point out that which is good before we begin to seek to eradicate that which is evil.”

—William Barclay

=====

Please keep me informed of news, sickness, deaths, etc. If any member comes down with Covid 19 we need to know . Call me or email me. Stay safe and stay well.

—Leon

=====

NEWS (continued from back page)

doctor in Longview Thursday and was not released. He will see him again in 2 weeks. Terry is doing fine—Remember **Charles Davis, Rance Hockaday, Kenneth Amerson, Enoch Waldrep’s brother, Kenny Ferguson, Marion Shurtleff, June Johnson, Randy Blackmon, Teresa Tate, Frank White, William and Yvonne White, Laverne McCurdy, Willie Don Davis, Judy Hinson, Catherine Moss, Deborah Brown**—Remember our **Shut-ins: James Johnson, Betty Rust and Wanda Sikes.**