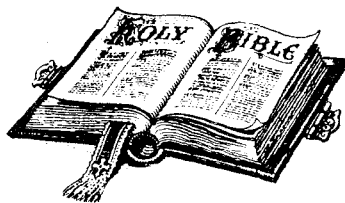


THE INSTRUCTOR



"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." 2 Timothy 3:16

Volume 22

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Number 1

LEGALISM AND PHARISEEISM

Christians that teach like the Bible does, that a man's salvation is conditioned upon his obedience to God are sometimes accused by some brethren of being "legalistic" or of teaching "Phariseeism". (See Hebrews 5:9 & 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9). If those who accuse mean by "legalism" the doctrine that "salvation is earned through works", then the charge is false. If by "legalism" they mean that "strict adherence to the law of Christ" (see Galatians 6:2) or "doing the will of the Father is necessary in order to enter the kingdom of heaven", then the charge is true and equally true of the teaching of Jesus Christ. (Please read Matthew 7:21).

But what about the charge of "Phariseeism"? Certainly teaching the same things as the Pharisees did is wrong because our Lord rebuked them for their teaching many times while he was on this earth. However, some say that one of the reasons Jesus rebuked the Pharisees was that they were following the law of God too strictly. It is easy to see that the implications for us if this were so would be that we would be doing wrong in trying to obey God's law for us today exactly. But where is the passage in the Bible where the Pharisees were ever rebuked because they were following the law of God too strictly?

The Pharisees were guilty of:

1. Thinking they needed no help. (See Mark 9:10-13; Luke 7:36-47; John 9:39-41 & Luke 18:10-14).
2. Neglecting the weightier matters of the law. (See Matthew 23:23).
3. Being hypocritical. (See Matthew 23:3,5 and Luke 11:47-48).
4. Trying to trick Jesus. (See Matthew 22:15-22 & Matthew 22:23-33).
5. Transgressing the commandment of God with their tradition. (See Matthew 15:1-9).

Where is the verse that condemns the Pharisees for following God's law too strictly? There is not one! WHY?

1. The Pharisees didn't obey God's law strictly enough (as can be seen from the above facts).
2. God wants us to follow his law exactly. (Please read John 14:15).

—Patrick T. Donahue

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THE APOSTLE PAUL SAID:

"Moreover it is required in stewards that a man be found faithful."
(1 Cor. 4:2)

THE INSTRUCTOR

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Editorial . . .

"PROOF REQUESTED, PROOF GIVEN" (No. 10)

In our last study we considered the false concept that "the Scriptures are not sufficient to guide us." The fact that prominent religious groups such as Catholics, Mormons, etc. advocate such a concept does not change the fact that **such teaching is contrary to God's Word and all who advocate such are false teachers and should be marked as such!**

Those who advocate the idea that the Scriptures are not sufficient to guide us are obligated to prove by the Scriptures that such an idea is true. Assuming and asserting such is not proof. We hereby challenge those who advocate such an idea to prove by God's Word that such is true!

Number six is the next item in the list of twenty-five things that appeared in THE INSTRUCTOR, October, 1983, under "Specific Wickedness" for which Scriptural proof for the opposite view (than that stated in # 6) has been requested. It reads as follows:

"6. Sinners are saved by faith only."

COMMENTS: The doctrine that "sinners are saved by faith only" is advocated by a number of denominational churches. In "The Standard Manual for Baptist Churches", p. 62, Edward T. Hiscox, DD, expressed it in these words: "We believe the Scriptures teach that the great gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in him is justification; that jus-

tification includes pardon of sin and the gift of eternal life on principles of righteousness; that it is bestowed not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but SOLELY THROUGH FAITH IN CHRIST: . . ." Harold L. Fickett, First Baptist Church, Galveston, Texas, said: "JESUS AND PAUL PROCLAIM THE SAME PLAN OF SALVATION. See John 3:14-16; Acts 16:30-31. 'Only believe,' 'Lord Jesus Christ,' God's Son, only object of belief . . . 'BELIEVE' MEANS INSTANTANEOUS SALVATION. Moment one believes, is saved. No need to await anything else . . ." BAPTIST BELIEFS, p. 10, 12. In DOCTRINES AND DISCIPLINE of the Methodist Church, 1964, p. 38, we read: "Wherefore, that WE ARE JUSTIFIED BY FAITH ONLY is a most wholesome doctrine and very full of comfort." Edward Fudge, an apostate from the faith, teaches that a sinner's justification before God is solely by grace, solely by Christ, "solely by faith" and Fudge says, "these truths rest solely on the authority of Scripture (sola Scriptura)." He teaches that "justification" is "received on the principle of faith alone." He says: "God pronounces the sinner righteous on the principle of faith, and that ALONE, but the faith that justifies never remains alone!" He further says: "Saving faith never remains 'alone', . . ." He also teaches that "one who believes and receives Christ (John 1:12) and lives . . . should not hesitate for a moment to be saved by water from his own crooked generation . . ." (See 4 GOSPEL SLOGANS by Edward Fudge).

The fact that prominent denominationalists and intellectual apostates teach the doctrine of "salvation by faith only" does not make it true.

A candid consideration of the following facts and scriptures should convince every sincere lover of truth that the statement (# 6) is false.

1. Although there are many Scriptures that teach that "sinners are saved by faith", there is NO Scripture that teaches that "sinners are saved by faith ONLY." NOTE: There is no Scrip-

(Continued on Page 3)

(Continued from Page 2)

"PROOF REQUESTED, PROOF GIVEN"

ture where salvation is attributed to faith where **ONLY** is added.

2. Salvation is **by grace** according to Ephesians 2:5, 8; therefore it could **not** be by faith **ONLY**! NOTE: It can **not** be both **by faith only** and also **by grace only** as some contend.

3. The fact that **one must repent** in order to be saved **proves** that one is **not** saved by faith **only**! (See acts 17:30-31; Acts 2:38; Acts 3:19). NOTE: If salvation is by faith **only**, then **repentance** is **not** essential to salvation.

4. Since one must **confess** (Christ) in order to be saved (see Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10; 1 John 4:15), one cannot be saved by faith alone! NOTE: If salvation is by faith **alone**, then **confession** is **not** essential to salvation.

5. The fact that one must **be baptized** in order to be saved (see Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; Galatians 3:26-27; Romans 6:3-4; 1 Peter 3:21), **proves** that salvation is **not** by faith **only**! NOTE: If salvation is by faith **alone**, then **baptism** is **not** essential to salvation!

6. We learn from Galatians 3:26-27 that the Galatians (to whom Paul wrote) were God's children by faith in Christ Jesus **because** they had been **baptized INTO Christ**! Therefore salvation cannot be by faith only.

7. We learn from 1 Peter 1:22 that souls are purified in **OBEYING THE TRUTH**. NOTE: Since souls are purified in **obeying** the truth, it is quite obvious that souls are **not** purified by faith only!

8. James 2:24 says: "**Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and NOT BY FAITH ONLY.**" In verse 14 with reference to faith without works, James asks: "**Can that faith SAVE him?**" (ASV). In verse 24 James mentions the fact that a man is **not JUSTIFIED by faith only**. To be **justified** is equivalent to being **saved** in the context of James 2. Abraham, a child of God, was **justified** (or saved) by works! (See James 2:21-23). Rahab, a sinner, was **justified** (or saved) by works! (See James 2:25).

NOTE: We must conclude that it takes **FAITH and WORKS** to **justify** (or save) either an alien sinner or a child of God.

Here are some of the **CONSEQUENCES** if the doctrine that "**sinners are saved by faith only**" is true:

1. Salvation is **not by grace** as Ephesians 2:5, 8 and other passages teach.

2. **Repentance** is **not** essential to salvation as Acts 17:30-31; Acts 2:38 and Acts 3:19 teaches!

3. **Confession** of the Lord Jesus is **not UNTO** salvation as Romans 10:9-10 says.

4. **Baptism** is **not** essential to salvation as Mark 16:16, Acts 2:38 and other passages teach! NOTE: If we are saved by faith **alone**, then the passages that teach we are saved by baptism are false!

5. We are **not** baptized **INTO** Christ as Romans 6:3-4 and Galatians 3:26-27 say **or** we are saved without getting **INTO** Jesus Christ.

6. Souls are **not** purified in **obeying the truth** as 1 Peter 1:22 says **or** our souls being purified is something entirely different to our souls being saved.

7. A man is **not** justified by **works** as James 2:24 says **or** a man being justified is something entirely different to a man being saved.

8. Justification (that is, salvation) IS by faith **only** although James 2:24 says: "**Ye see then how that by WORKS a man is justified, and NOT BY FAITH ONLY.**"

9. One **can** enter into the kingdom of heaven **without** **DOING** the will of the Father which is in heaven although Jesus said: "**Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that DOETH THE WILL OF MY Father which is in heaven.**" (Matthew 7:21).

When we consider all the Scriptures, we must conclude that God's word does **not** teach that "**Sinners are saved by faith only.**"

Please do not allow your love and respect for some man or for some tradition or your feelings to cause you to believe such a false doctrine. The eternal destiny of your soul is involved.

(Continued on Page 4)

DON'T PLAY WITH FIRE

Wise parents advise their children not to play with fire, lest in doing so they would be burned. Yet many of us play around with those things that can destroy our souls forever.

The boy who starts running with the crowd that seeks to break the law and see just how far they can go, is opening the door to dangers that will engulf him.

The girl who dates boys who think it is smart to drink, smoke, pet and tell sexy jokes is passing herself over the flames that can in a moment reach out and destroy her reputation, happiness, and eternal soul.

Any woman who displays her body before men in shorts or a bathing suit (or in any other type clothing that produces or tends to produce lewd or lustful thoughts or emotions — editor) is playing with fire. The woman who will “go out” with a man who is married or divorced is putting temptation to adultery in his or her path.

Those who will enjoy a social drink are whetting an appetite that could drown them in drink, as well as sinning in the meantime.

Sin doesn't look black and heinous at the first, but once it gets its foot in the door it seldom leaves until it fin-

(Continued from Page 3)

“PROOF REQUESTED,
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You cannot afford to make such a mistake.

When a person presumes to speak the doctrine that “**Sinners are saved by faith only**” in the name of Christ, he is speaking **presumptuously** and is teaching **false** doctrine because such teaching is **not** taught in God's Book! The person who so speaks is **guilty of wickedness!** We should so “**speak**” and so “**do**” as those who will be **judged “by the law of liberty.”** (See James 2:12).

Let us remember the words of the apostle Peter when he said: “**If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God . . .**” (1 Peter 4:11).

(C.R.S.)

(To Be Continued)

ishes its deadly work. “**Sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.**”

—Author unknown

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Proverbs 6:27-28 says: “**Can a man take fire into his bosom, and his clothes not be burned? Can one go upon hot coals, and his feet not be burned?**”

— SENTENCE SERMONS —

Hasty decisions often bring lifelong regrets.

* * * * *

A man who is “half drunk” is only “half sober.”

* * * * *

A habit can either serve you or enslave you.

* * * * *

No child of God is fully clothed unless he is clothed with humility.

* * * * *

A genuine Christian is a true “gentleman” or “gentlewoman.”

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