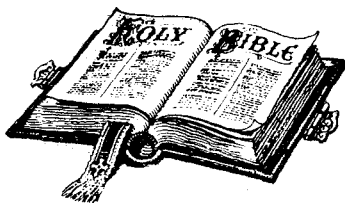


THE INSTRUCTOR



"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 21

NOVEMBER, 1984

Number 11

HOW DO PEOPLE ENTER THE CHURCH?

The New Testament of Jesus Christ is the standard to which we must appeal in order to learn **how a person gets into the church**. The Word of God does **not** tell us **how** to get into any denomination or secret organization such as Freemasonry. But it **does** reveal what one must do in order to enter the Church for which Jesus Christ died.

In this study we are discussing the church (the body of Christ) in the universal sense. We are **not** discussing how a person gets into a **local church** or congregation.

THE LORD ADDS THE SAVED TO THE CHURCH. Acts 2:47 tells us that "... the Lord **ADDED TO THE CHURCH** daily such as should be **SAVED**." In view of this fact we can see that in order to get into the church one must do what God requires of him in order to be saved. We learn from 1 Cor. 12:13 that by the teaching of the Holy Spirit "**we all are BAPTIZED INTO ONE BODY**." Since only the **saved** are added to the church, and in view of the fact that one is "**baptized into one body**" which is the church, (see Col. 1:18; Eph. 1:22-23), it necessarily follows that **one must be baptized in order to be saved!** Remember Jesus said: "**He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved . . .**" (Mark 16:16).

ONE ENTERS THE KINGDOM WHICH IS THE CHURCH WHEN HE IS BORN AGAIN. In John 3:5

Jesus said unto Nicodemus: "**Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.**" When a person is taught by the Spirit through the Scriptures the gospel of Jesus Christ, he must believe and obey it in order to be born again. When one is born again he becomes a "new creature" in Christ. As a new creature he enters into the kingdom! Obviously one does the **same** thing to be born again that he does in order to be saved.

CASES OF SINNERS BEING SAVED AND THUS ADDED TO THE CHURCH or in other words, **sinner were born again and entered into the church**. Since the church was purchased with the blood of Christ (Acts 20:28), we must come to this side of the cross in order to find out how **sinner were saved after the church** came into existence in the first century. Remember the Lord **added the saved** to the church.

Here is a list of ten cases of conversions (sinners being saved) that you should consider.

1. The Jews on Pentecost. (Acts 2).
2. The Samaritans. (Acts 8:5-12).
3. Simon. (Acts 8:9-13).
4. The eunuch. (Acts 8:26-39).
5. Saul. (Acts 9, 22, 26).
6. Cornelius & Gentiles. (Acts 10, 11).
7. Lydia & household. (Acts 16:14-15).

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THE INSTRUCTOR

Published monthly in the interest of truth and righteousness by the congregation of Christ, meeting at 1107 Highway 431 South, in Albertville, Alabama.

CARROL R. SUTTON
EDITOR

Send all questions, comments, and criticisms to the editor, 1107 Highway 431 South, Albertville, Alabama 35950.

Second-class postage paid in
Albertville, AL 35950

Editorial - - -

"PROOF REQUESTED, PROOF GIVEN" (No. 8)

In our study last month we gave **proof** from the Scriptures that the doctrine of "**Unconditional predestination**" is in opposition to some clearly stated passages in God's Word and therefore it is **false** doctrine. The fact that a number of people believe and teach "**unconditional predestination**" does not **prove** that it is true. We must be content to believe and advocate **only** what is **taught in God's Word**.

Those who advocate this doctrine are **obligated** to **prove** that **it is taught** in the Scriptures. We hereby **challenge** those who advocate the doctrine of "**Unconditional predestination**" to **prove** by God's Word that such teaching is true!

We will now consider item **four** 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 # 4) has been requested. It reads as follows:

"4. The salvation of sinners is wholly or solely by grace."

COMMENTS: A number of denominations advocate that "**the salvation of sinners is wholly or solely by grace.**" For example, Edward T. Hiscox, DD, a noted Baptist, expressed it by saying: "**We believe the Scriptures teach that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace: . . .**" in the **STANDARD MANUAL FOR BAPTIST CHURCHES**, p. 61. Denominational churches are

not the only ones who advocate this doctrine. Some apostates from the faith, such as Edward Fudge, also advocate this doctrine. In his tract entitled, **4 GOSPEL SLOGANS**, p. 61, Edward Fudge said: "**Justification is by grace alone (sola gratia), the reformers said, . . .**" and he later added, "**The reformers therefore insisted on sola gratia — solely by grace — and took their stand with Paul.**" In the same tract Edward also referred to the doctrine of "**justification by grace alone**" as a "**gospel pearl.**"

OBSERVATIONS: The word "**wholly**" means "**entirely; totally, altogether; quite.**" (The New American Dictionary). The word "**solely**" means "**exclusively or only.**" (ibid.) The word "**alone**" means "**to the exclusion of all others or all else.**" (ibid.)

If salvation (or justification) is **solely** by grace, then salvation is **not** dependent or conditioned on anything else. If it is by **grace alone**, it is obvious that it is **not** by **anything** else. The word **alone** means **to the exclusion of all else**. If **all else** is excluded by which we are saved, repentance is excluded along with faith and other acts of obedience.

A consideration of the following facts should convince us that the doctrine that "**the salvation of sinners is wholly or solely by grace**" is **false**.

1. Although a number of Scriptural statements indicate that the salvation of sinners **IS** by **grace**, there is **NO** Scriptural statement that indicates that the salvation of sinners is **wholly** or **solely** by grace. (See Ephesians 2:5; 2:8; Romans 3:24 and Titus 3:7). To add **wholly, solely, entirely, totally, altogether, exclusively or only** to "**grace**" in these or any other passages is to **pervert** God's truth!

2. Since "grace" is God's "favor" or "mercy", if salvation is by **grace alone**, then man's "faith", man's "response" or man's "obedience" is **excluded** from having anything whatsoever to do with man's salvation. **NOTE:** "Faith", "response", or "obedience" is **not** God's grace, i.e., God's favor or mercy.

3. Since the apostle Peter tells us that "**. . . baptism doth also now save us**

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...”, salvation can **not** be by grace **alone!** (See 1 Peter 3:21).

4. Since the apostle Paul conditions salvation on “**confession**” (confessing with the mouth the Lord Jesus), salvation can **not** be by grace **alone!** (See Romans 10:9-10).

5. Since “**repentance**” is essential to salvation, it can **not** be by grace **alone!** (See Acts 11:18; Acts 17:30-31; Acts 2:38; 3:19). **NOTE: Repentance** is what **sinners** do. Repentance is **not** God’s grace (favor or mercy)!

6. The fact that sinners are saved by “**faith**” **proves** beyond any doubt whatever that salvation is **not** by grace **alone!** (See Hebrews 11:6; John 20:30-31; 3:16-18; 3:36; 5:24; Mark 16:16; Acts 16:31; Romans 5:1; Acts 15:9 and Ephesians 2:8-9). **NOTE: Faith** is **not** grace! **Faith** is **not** what God must have! **Faith** is what sinners **must** have! **Faith** is **not** God’s favor or mercy, but it is what **man** has because he **believes** God’s Word! (See Rom. 10:17).

7. Man’s “**response**” (as Edward and some others like to word it) is **not** God’s grace, but it is a **result** or an **effect** of God’s grace. **NOTE: In** some people God’s grace does **not** produce this “**response**”, result or effect. Thus we can see the “**response**”, result or effect itself is **not** grace.

8. The fact that men must **call** upon the name of the Lord in order to be saved **proves** that salvation is **not** by grace **alone!** (Please read Acts 2:21 and Romans 10:12-18). **NOTE: Calling upon the name of the Lord** is **not** what **God** does, but what **man** does! It is **not** the grace of God!

9. The fact that sinners must “**obey**” God in order to be saved **proves** without question that sinners are **not** saved by grace alone! (Please read carefully Matthew 7:21-23; 12:50; Acts 2:37-38; 16:30-34; 9:6; 6:7; 6:17-18; 2 Thess. 1:7-9; Romans 2:8-9; Hebrews 5:8-9). **NOTE: Obedience to God** is **not** the grace of God! Obedience is what man does!

CONSEQUENCES of the doctrine

that **sinners are saved wholly or solely by grace:**

1. God saves some sinners without any conditions being met and at the same time He condemns others or God’s grace saves every sinner without any conditions being met. This would mean universal salvation!

2. Salvation can **not** be by **calling upon the name of the Lord** although Acts 2:21 and Romans 10:12-18 teaches it is!

3. Salvation can **not** be by **doing** God’s will although the Scriptures teach that it is! (See Matthew 7:21-23; Revelation 22:14; Romans 6:17-18; 1:5; 16:26; 2:8-9; 2 Thess. 1:7-9).

4. Salvation can **not** be by **baptism** although God’s Word teaches it is! (See Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; Romans 6:3-4; Galatians 3:26-27 and 1 Peter 3:21).

5. **Confession** of the Lord Jesus can **not** be necessary to salvation although the **inspired** Word indicates that it is! (See Matthew 10:22-23; Romans 10:9-10; Acts 8:37; 1 John 4:15).

6. Salvation can **not** be conditioned on **repentance** although the truth shows that one **must** repent in order to be saved! (See Acts 17:30-31; Acts 2:38; Acts 3:19).

7. Salvation can **not** be by **faith** although the Scriptures declare that it is! (See Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 5:1; John 3:16-18; 3:36; 5:24; Hebrews 11:6; Acts 16:30-34 and Galatians 3:26-27).

8. The Scriptures that teach that we will be saved or lost depending on what we **believe** and **do** are **false!** (See Mark 16:16; John 3:16-18; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Romans 14:12; Romans 2:6-9; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9; John 5:28-29; Revelation 20:10-15).

9. Man’s **faith** (although it obeys God’s will) has absolutely nothing whatever to do with his salvation!

10. We are **not** justified by **works** although the Word of God teaches we are! (See Acts 10:34-35 and James 2:14-26).

11. Man’s “**response**” to **God’s** grace has nothing whatever to do with his salvation!

12. Either the doctrine of “**unconditional predestination**” or the doctrine of “**universal salvation**” is **true!**

HOW DO PEOPLE ENTER THE CHURCH?

8. The Jailor. (Acts 16:19-34).
9. Corinthians. (Acts 18:8).
10. Ephesians. (Acts 19:1-7).

When you take **all** the **essentials** that are **mentioned** in each case, you will learn that a sinner must **hear** the gospel, **believe** it, **repent** of sins, **confess** faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and be **baptized** in water for the remission of sins. He is then **saved** and **added to the church!** That is how people entered the church in the first century, and this is how people enter the church now.

Are you in the church that was bought with the blood of Christ? If you have not been saved as **God's Word** teaches, then you are **not** in the **Lord's** church.

(CRS)

DWIGHT L. MOODY

I prayed for faith and thought that someday faith would come down and strike me like lightning. But faith did not seem to come. One day I read in the tenth chapter of Romans, "**Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.**" . . . Faith has been growing ever since.

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NOTE: If salvation of sinners is **wholly** or **solely** by grace, either **some** sinners or **all** sinners will be saved regardless of what they believe and/or do!

When we consider all of God's Word we must conclude that God does **NOT** teach that "**the salvation of sinners is wholly or solely by grace.**"

When a person **presumes** to speak the doctrine of **salvation by grace only** in the name of Christ, he is speaking presumptuously and is teaching **false** doctrine because such 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!**" (Cf. James 2:12). Let us always remember that the apostle Peter charged: "**If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God.**" (1 Peter 4:11).

(CRS)

(To be continued)

Christ died on the cross for you.
"Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by?"

— SENTENCE SERMONS —

Faith builds a bridge from this world into the next.

* * * *

When we mistreat people, we mistreat God.

* * * *

It is sinful to love error and hate truth.

* * * *

One is not truly living unless he is living for others.

* * * *

A man is what he is, and not what he has.

CHURCH OF CHRIST

1107 Highway 431 South
Albertville, Alabama 35950