

THE BEREAN

"...EXAMINING THE SCRIPTURES DAILY..." (Acts 17:11)

NOT BY FAITH ONLY *A STUDY OF THE EPISTLE OF JAMES* *PART THIRTY TWO OF SIXTY FOUR*

We are constantly amazed at man's ability to come up with religious doctrines which contradict almost word for word the express will of God. For example, the Discipline of a popular denomination says, "Wherefore, that we are justified by faith only is a most wholesome doctrine, and very full of comfort." In contrast, James, guided by the Holy Spirit, says, "Ye see that by works a man is justified, and not only by faith" (James 2:24). Both statements cannot be true. One has to be in error since they contradict. Is man saved by faith only or is he not? While it should be obvious that James is correct and the human authors of the discipline in error, it is distressing to realize that more people believe in "salvation by faith only" than believe James' inspired statement.

The word "only" is an exclusive word. If we are saved by faith "only", then nothing else is required. There are many passages that teach we are saved by faith, but not one uses the word "only." Religious teachers have added the word "only". The devil deceived Eve by adding one word to God's statement. He has done the same with the promise of salvation by faith.

If man can be saved by faith "only", he need not confess Christ (Romans 10:10). Faith "only" eliminates confessing Christ. If man is saved by faith "only", he need not repent. Who believes it? Christ plainly said that we must repent or perish (Luke 13:3). If man can be saved by faith "only", he need never be baptized into Christ (Galatians 3:26,27). This is the command most seek to avoid. But if salvation is in Christ (II Timothy 2:10), and we are baptized into Christ (Romans 6:3), how can anyone believe salvation comes without baptism?

Do not be misled by popular religionists who are trying to do away with the command to be baptized. The same argument that will do away with one command of God will do away with every command of God. The person who truly wants to please God will gladly receive the word and be baptized (Acts 2:41).

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