

University Heights Church of Christ

BULLETIN

January 20, 2008

BY WHICH YOU ARE SAVED IF

Are people saved by a direct operation of the Holy Spirit upon their heart? Millions of people on this earth believe and teach that people are saved by a direct operation of the Holy Spirit upon their heart but the inspired apostle Paul did not believe that. Paul said that people are saved, by hearing and believing the preaching of the good news about how to be saved by the grace of God through the blood of Jesus, if they remain faithful. .

1 Corinthians 15:1 “Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you have received, and wherein you stand; 2 By which also you are saved, if you keep in memory what I preached to you, unless you have believed in vain.”

Paul said that, to those who believe when they hear the good news about how to be saved by the grace of God through the blood of Jesus, the message is the “Power of God to salvation”.

Romans 1: 15 “So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also. 16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God to salvation to every one that believes; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. 17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.”

If people actually were saved by a direct and irresistible action of the Holy Spirit upon their heart Paul would have said that. Paul would have said, “the direct operation of the Holy Spirit upon the heart is the power of God to salvation.” Paul did not say that because it is not true. What Paul said is what is true. The word of God is the power by which God saves. The just shall live by faith and according to the apostle Paul the word of God is the source of that saving faith.

Romans 10: 17 “So then faith [comes] by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

If that was not true the inspired apostle Paul would not have been guided by the Holy Spirit to write it. It is by the “foolishness” of preaching that God has chosen to save sinners, according to the inspired apostle Paul.

1 Corinthians 1: 21 “For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.”

The commission that Jesus Christ gave to his apostles proves that Paul is telling the truth about the gospel being the power of God to save.

Matthew 28: 18 “And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, All power is given to me in heaven and in earth. 19 Go you therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, [even] to the end of the world. Amen.”

Mark 16: 15 “And he said to them, Go you into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He that believes and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believes not shall be damned.”

This is not some made-up message, this is what the New Testament has been saying for two thousand years in every language into which it has been accurately translated. Notice what Jesus said to Nicodemus.

John 3: 3 “Jesus answered and said to him, Verily, verily, I say to you, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. 4 Nicodemus said to him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? 5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say to you, Except a man be born of water and [of] the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”

Jesus is talking about baptizing a repentant believer in water for the remission of his sins. According to the inspired word of God a physical birth is a birth “of blood”, not a birth of water.

John 1: 12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, [even] to them that believe on his name: 13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

It is only by the will of God that repentant believers may be born into the kingdom of God by water. And, it is the will of God that repentant believers be born into the kingdom of God by immersion in water. We know that it is the will of God because Jesus said so.

Jesus reminded Nicodemus about the serpent on the pole in the wilderness, which is recorded in **Numbers 21**. The Israelites that believed enough to do what God said (look on the serpent) were saved but those who did not look on the serpent were not saved.

John 3: 14 “And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: 15 That whosoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life. 16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. 17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. 18 He that believes on him is not condemned: but he that believes not is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”

Today those who believe the gospel enough to do what God said (become repentant, baptized believers) will be saved. Those who do not do what God said will be lost. That is what the **New Testament** teaches. That is what every person on earth must teach in order to be teaching what the **New Testament** teaches. Today the only way we may live by faith is by faithfully obeying the will of God as it is revealed in the **New Testament**. That is the only way a person may live by faith. That has always been the only way a person may live by faith. “Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar?”

James 2:21

Remember to Pray For

Bill Robinson Jr., who was hospitalized with breathing problems.

Pat Wallace, recovering from bone spur surgery.

Anne Harper and the baby

Donnie & Tracy Oliver and their baby.

Helen Stephens

Rick Estes

Brayden Grushon

The mother of Lori Dailey

Chris Handshoe, is having surgery to correct breathing problems

Chris and Jen Dooley

Jeffrey Howerton

Ruel Baker

Addison Pervine

Carl Stripplehoff

Sybil Jamison

Blanch Thompson

Karen Handshoe

Tom Kemp

Freda Blakey is in Cardinal Hill Hospital for therapy.

James Stauffer

The **New Testament** says that **faith only** will not save.

James 2: 24 "You see then how that by works a man is justified, and **not by faith only**."

The **New Testament** says that again.

John 12: 42 "Nevertheless among the chief rulers also **many believed on him**; but because of the Pharisees **they did not confess [him]**, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: 43 For **they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.**"

Faith only will not save because **faith only is not saving faith**. The only faith that saves is the faith that **produces works of faith**. The **faith that saves confesses Jesus**. The **faith that saves loves the praise of God more than the praise of men**. The **faith that saves is not faith only**.

IN ORDER FOR ME TO BE SAVED BY THE GRACE OF GOD THROUGH THE BLOOD OF JESUS **I MUST BE A MEMBER OF THE CHURCH OF GOD'S CHOICE**.

Ephesians 5: 25 Husbands, love your wives, **even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it**; 26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, 27 **That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.**

Thoughts

Someone somewhere knows the chemical formula and the DNA and everything else that there is to know about everything there is.

That is true because this universe is not a refuse-bin of unrelated odds and ends that for no logical reason fell into the same container.

Every single one of these millions of bits and pieces from the smallest to the largest even to the universe itself has a knowable chemical identity and purpose. Each organism has individual components that interact with each other within the organism for the success of the organism and each organism has a certain environmental impact that interacts with surrounding organisms and works for the success of the earth's ecology.

Somebody somewhere knew the DNA of a flea, the component list of a flea, the lifecycle of a flea and the impact of fleas upon the earth's ecology before the very first flea ever got turned on. Fleas do not live alone on planet earth. Fleas are not the result of a miraculous chain of supernatural accidents, that, against all reason happen to tumble in a straight line from nothing to a flea. A flea is a multi-component living organism that is completely engineered to occupy a certain niche in the ecology of this globe and interact with the other life forms. Such patterns of interaction are the result of design not accident. Accident does not run in straight lines from nothing to a living, reproducing flea. Accident goes nowhere. Nothing plus accident equals nothing. The only thing that can start with nothing and wind up with something that works is some power that has the ability and knowledge to perceive and understand problems and the knowledge and power to design and produce solutions to those problems. That is true. It cannot be reasonably denied. For there to be fleas somewhere there is a power that knew everything needed and possessed every ability required to design and produce not only fleas but also the ecology into which they fit.

That power is the God described in the Holy Bible. The God described in the Holy Bible knows every part of this universe because He has designed and produced every part of this universe. Every part of this universe works according to a knowable pattern because God created this universe to function according to what God knows. True scientists expect every part of this universe to function according to knowable patterns to reach discernable goals. The work of true scientists is to discover the patterns and purposes that are hidden by God in all components of this universe.

Notes

BUSINESS MEETING FOR THE ENTIRE CHURCH AT 4:00 PM NEXT SUNDAY JANUARY 27 COMING UP- GOSPEL MEETING HERE, APRIL 6-11 WITH GARY HENRY PREACHING

THE CHURCH DESCRIBED IN THE NEW TESTAMENT IS THE CHURCH OF GOD'S CHOICE

GOD IS NOT THE AUTHOR OF CREED BOOKS

GOD IS THE AUTHOR OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

THE CHURCH TODAY THAT FOLLOWS THE NEW TESTAMENT ONLY IS THE CHURCH OF GOD'S CHOICE

THE ONLY ORGANIZED UNIT OF THE LORD'S CHURCH ON EARTH IS THE LOCAL CHURCH.

THE LOCAL CHURCH IS SELF GOVERNING

THE LOCAL CHURCH IS SELF SUPPORTING

THE LOCAL CHURCH IS SELF PROPAGATING

IN THE LORD'S CHURCH ON EARTH THERE IS NO LARGER ORGANIZED BODY THAN THE LOCAL CHURCH

Schedule of Services

Sunday Morning

Bible Classes 9:45am

Worship Service 10:45am

Sunday Evening

Worship Service 6:00pm

Wednesday Evening

Bible Studies for all ages

7:30pm

Monthly Song Service

First Friday 7:30pm

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**COME STUDY THE BIBLE
AND WORSHIP WITH US**