

WHAT HAS GOD SAID?

It is amazing the number of folks who claim to believe in God's Word while ignoring it! Some people do not have a great deal of difficulty convincing themselves that God surely does not mean what He says. However, if one desires to go to Heaven, he will be interested in what God has said. Let us study and learn as we contrast what some people believe with what God has said.

Most folks believe in the "faith only" concept of salvation. Countless thousands believe that righteous works are not necessary to save their souls. They contend that anything one might **do** is an unnecessary meritorious work and has man attempting to save himself. It is true that man cannot save himself by works of merit. No one can do enough good deeds to become a child of God or earn salvation. No faithful gospel preacher has ever taught such a false doctrine!

Man must, however, comply with works of obedience that are demanded by the Lord. What has God said? Peter told the audience on Pentecost, "*Save yourselves from this crooked generation*" (Acts 2:40). This one verse of Scripture clearly shows that there is **something** man must do to save himself. The book of Hebrews demands that one acts upon his faith and does what God says do (Heb. 11:6). Luke demands that all people must repent of their sins (Luke 13:3). Paul insists that believers will with the mouth make confession unto salvation (Rom. 10:10). Inspired writers clearly state that man must be immersed for the remission of his sins (Acts 2:38; 8:30-39; 22:16; Rom. 6:4; Gal. 3:27; 1 Pet. 3:21). All of these works of obedience must be complied with if man is to be saved. Why? Because God said so!

It is obvious that "faith only" will not save one after he has become a child of God. James says, "*What doth it profit, my brethren, if a man say he hath faith, but have not works? can that faith save him? If a brother or sister be naked and in lack of daily food, and one of you say unto them, Go in peace, be ye warmed and filled; and yet ye give them not the things needful to the body; what doth it profit? Even so faith, if it have not works, is dead in itself*" (James 2:14-17). It could not be made more clear when James says, "*Yea, a man will say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: show me thy faith apart from thy works, and I by my works will show thee my faith*" (James 2:18). It is not possible for one to demonstrate his faith apart from righteous works.

The writer of Hebrews declares that **by faith** "Abel offered... a more excellent sacrifice" (11:4), "Noah...prepared an ark" (11:7), "Abraham...went out, not knowing whither he went" (11:8), "Abraham...offered up Isaac" (11:17), "Moses *forsook Egypt*" (11:27), "*kept the passover*" (11:28), and it was by faith that the children of Israel "*passed through the Red Sea*" (11:29). Can one not see that a believing faith is an active faith? One must be a believer, hearer, and doer of what God would have him to do (cf. James 1:22). In the Day of Judgment, all will be interested in what God has said. **The majority of people believe they can worship as they please.** This is the very reason that so many denominations exist. Folks desire to worship "their way," and so they search for a church that is doing things like they want to do them. What has God said about the matter?

All people have the obligation to worship God "*in spirit and truth*" (John 4:24). God, not man, defines truth.

The Bible says that His "*word is truth*" (John 17:17). Christ declares, "*If ye love me, ye will keep my commandments*" (John 14:15). The Lord built His church (Matt. 16:18) and promised to save **only** that which He built (Eph. 5:23). The apostle Paul says there is only "*one body*" (Eph. 4:4) of which Christ is head (Eph. 1:22-23). One cannot worship as he pleases and expect to go to Heaven. If one wants to be saved, he will heed what God has said regarding proper worship.

Many who have obeyed the gospel try to serve and worship God half-heartedly. They use excuse after excuse to keep from loving and serving God with all their being (cf. Matt. 22:37). These brethren do not believe these words of the Master: "*But seek ye first his kingdom, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you*" (Matt. 6:33). These half-hearted brethren are about 60 percent committed and 40 percent uncommitted. They reason that they have the **right** to reserve some of their heart for themselves. They put God first in their lives **only** if it is convenient for them to do so. They heed **only** the Scriptures that they agree with. They serve **only** if they can work it into their schedule. Brethren need to wake up and ask, "What has God said regarding spiritual matters?"

One will not be judged by what he thinks or feels. Jesus said, "*He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my sayings, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I spake, the same shall judge him in the last day*" (John 12:48). Brethren, give diligent heed to what God has said!

Marvin L. Weir from Bonham St. Beacon

BIRTHDAY

Paula Stillwell, 10-31.

ILL

Sunday: Millie Robertson (PM).

Wednesday: Millie Robertson.

Jim O'Connor was dismissed from Menorah Hospital in Overland Park on Saturday after having a temporary feeding tube placed. He is sounding much better.

Those battling cancer: Ledgia Campbell, Betty James and Cleo Stone. Please remember these in your prayers.

HOME BOUND

Kathleen Camp is in Room 101 at the Royal Terrace Nursing Home in Olathe. Barbara James' Aunt, Evelyn Marquardt is at Sharon Lane in Shawnee. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

OUT OF TOWN

The James' are camping this weekend. The Carter family spent several days in Florida last week. Wilba Hopkins visited with relatives in Iola, KS last weekend. Ted and Julia Thrasher were at Blue Springs for a Gospel meeting last Wednesday night. George Thomas was away on business last Wednesday night.

POT LUCK DINNER

Our monthly Pot Luck Dinner will take place next Sunday, November 1, following our AM worship. Plan to come and enjoy the good food and company!

AREA MEETINGS

There are several Gospel Meetings taking place in the Kansas City area this week and in early November. Please check the flyers in the foyer for full details.

ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, 39; Sunday PM, 29; Wednesday PM, 21.

Those To Serve

October 25, 2009

BUILDING AND COMMUNION..... Nelson

MORNING WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS..... George Thomas

SONG LEADER..... Stanley Anderson

OPENING PRAYER Chris Edwards

PRESIDE Trent Thrasher

ASSIST Jared Nelson

ASSIST John James

CLOSING PRAYER..... Jeff Nemechek

EVENING WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER John Cody Carter

CLOSING PRAYER..... Joel Nelson

LORD'S SUPPER..... Trent Thrasher

WEDNESDAY 28th

SONG LEADER..... Trent Thrasher

INVITATION Ted Thrasher

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 AM

Morning Worship 10:30 AM

Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM

Bible Study 7:00 PM

Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher

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