

Trends

Statistics about smoking in the U.S.: 1) Every year about 480,000 Americans die from smoking-related illnesses; 2) Every year smoking-related illnesses cost the U.S. economy \$300 billion; and 3) 16.8% of Americans smoke.

via CDC

I Corinthians 6:12: "All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any."

Sentence Sermons

"Smoking is hateful to the nose, harmful to the brain, and dangerous to the lungs."

~King James I

I Corinthians 6:19-20: "Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? 20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's."

News & Notes

Please pray for those mentioned in the announcements after services and others listed on the bulletin board in the foyer of the church building.

Pray for all the members at Westside! Please pray for Susan Ferrell and her family as she continues to recover from brain tumor surgery. Also, please pray for her husband Shawn and their three boys: Samuel, Micah, and Eli.

Continue prayers for Jennifer Shorter (Garner) a member at Knightsville who is recovering well from her brain tumor surgery. Also, please pray for Elias Dispennett (age 8), son of Rob Dispennett, Knightsville's preacher, w2ho has Type 1 diabetes.

Please pray for my daughter Dawne. She had successful jaw surgery for her bilateral cleft palate on 7/13. She has had about a dozen surgeries for this condition over the years. Her eight hour surgery went well. Dawne continues to recover and had a good evaluation from the doctor on 8/4. Sherry and I sincerely appreciate continued prayers on her behalf.

Pray for the college students as they are now on summer break. Jonathan will be attending IUPUI law school this fall and Rachel plans to return to IU.

Please keep sister Wilma in your prayers! She gives all of us so much encouragement! God bless her and Virginia! Remember both of them in your prayers.

Words of Life is published by the **Westside Church of Christ** meeting at 1301 N. Enterprise, Bloomington, IN 47404

Times of Service: Bible Study, Sunday 9:30 AM and Wednesday 7:00 PM; Worship, Sunday 10:30 AM and 5:00 PM

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Please direct questions and comments to the editor.

Words of Life

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church of Christ

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"Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."

John 6:68



If Salvation Is By Faith Only

Craig Thomas

We have been examining in detail what God requires of us to be saved: 1) **Hear Christ** (Heb. 1:1-2); 2) **Believe in Christ** (Jn. 20:31); 3) **Repent** (Acts 17:30); 4) **Confess Christ** (Rom. 10:10); 5) **Be Baptized** (Mark 16:16); and, 6) **Live Faithfully** (Col. 1:22-23). Many religious groups teach that salvation is by faith "only." Undoubtedly, the Bible teaches that salvation is by faith (Jn. 3:15-16; Rom. 4:16; Gal. 3:26) but not by faith "only" (Jas. 2:24). Those who teach that we are saved by faith "only" are unaware of the consequences of such teaching. If salvation is by faith "only", then...

1) **We Can Be Saved Without Christ's Blood.** The blood of Christ was shed for remission of sins (Matt. 26:28) and shed in His death (Jn. 19:33-34). Thus, we must reach His death to contact His blood. This is done only in baptism (Rom. 6:3-4). Faith "only" leaves one without remission of sins (Acts 2:38).

2) **We Can Be Saved Outside of Christ.** Since redemption, forgiveness of sins, the love of God, and His grace are all "in Christ" (Eph. 1:7; Rom. 8:38-39; 2 Tim. 2:1) and not everyone is in Christ (Rom. 16:7; Eph. 2:12; Col. 1:21) we must do something to get into Christ. In order to get into Christ we must "put on Christ" which is done by being "baptized into Christ" (Gal. 3:27). To have faith "only" is to have no hope and to be outside Christ the only "way" to the Father (Jn. 14:6).

3) **We Can Be Saved Outside of the Church.** Since Jesus is the savior of only those that are in his body (Eph. 5:23; Col. 1:20-22) and the body is the church (Col. 1:24) one must be in the church to be saved. The only way to get into the church is to be baptized into it (1 Cor. 12:13). To have faith "only" leaves one outside of His body and thus not saved.

4) **The Rich Young Ruler Was Saved.** This young man believed in Christ and confessed him but was not willing to do what Jesus said (Matt. 19:16-22). This is often the case today. Jesus said, "And why call ye me Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" (Lk. 6:46). To have faith "only" is to go "away sorrowful" without salvation.

5) **The Devils Are Saved.** In James 2:19 we learn that even the devils believe in God and tremble. Furthermore, in Matthew 8:29 there were some devils who even confessed Christ. Everyone knows that the devils are not saved, but to have faith “only” leaves one in the same condition as the devils...lost!

“...except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish...”

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1) **What is repentance?** This is a critical question since Jesus said if we don't repent we shall perish (Lk. 13:3). It's importance can also be seen when Peter told the people in Acts 2:38, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins.” Our salvation is dependent upon our repentance. Several words are used in the Bible to describe “repentance.” One word simply means sorrow or regret. This is not the word used for “repent” in Acts 2:38. Many are sorry about their sins, but not willing to repent in the sense required by God. For example, the Bible tells us Judas repented after betraying Christ (Matt. 27:3). Judas was “sorry” but did not repent in the sense God requires of sinners. Sorrow is definitely involved in true repentance, but it is not with-in itself true repentance. Paul tells us there are two types of “sorrow” (2 Cor. 7:10). One is “sorrow of the world” that “worketh death.” This is the type of sorrow typified by Judas. The second Paul calls “godly sorrow.” “[G]odly sorrow” is different than “sorrow of the world” because “godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation.”

2) **What then is true repentance?** The Bible defines it for us. In Matthew 12:41, Jesus referred to what happened when Jonah preached at Nineveh, He said, “...they repented at the preaching of Jonas.” Now, what did they do? They were certainly sorry (Jonah 3:6-8). However, v. 10 points out they also “turned from their evil way.” Thus, true repentance is shown by both attitude and action (Matt. 3:8). This is the repentance that God requires of us and is found in such passages as Acts 2:38, Luke 13:3, Acts 17:30, and Acts 11:18 and means “a change of heart or attitude toward one's sin that results in a reformation of life.” The Bible points out at least three things which may cause one to repent. First, is “godly sorrow” (2 Cor. 7:10). Second “the goodness of God” (Rom. 2:4). And, third the judgment to come (Acts 17:30-31). Repentance is required to become a Christian (Acts 2:38) as well as when the Christian sins (Acts 8:13, 18-22).

Acts 17:30 says, “And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent.” Have you repented? Remember, “...except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish...”!

“...with the mouth confession is made unto salvation..”

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1) **Is “confession” necessary?** In Romans 10:10 the inspired apostle said, “For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.” So as surely as belief is a requirement in order to be saved (Heb. 11:6), so also is “confession” (also see Rom. 10:9). Jesus Himself confirmed this truth when He said, “Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.” (Matt. 10:32-33)

2) **What is to be “confessed” and how?** Many are confused about what man is to confess “unto salvation.” The Bible very clearly tells us what we must confess in Acts 8. Acts 8 records the conversion of the Ethiopian eunuch by the evangelist Phillip. Phillip “preached unto him Jesus” (v. 35). As a result of that preaching the eunuch asked, “See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?” (v. 36). What was Phillip's answer? “If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest.” (v. 37) The eunuch then responded with what we too must confess to be saved, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.” (v. 37). Note that his confession was verbal, before men, and specific as to its content (cf. Rom. 10:9; Matt. 16:16).

3) **Why is “confession” so important?** The fact that Jesus is the Son of God is the foundational truth upon which His church is built (Matt. 16:13-18). That Jesus is God's Son was fully demonstrated by His resurrection (Rom. 1:4). The fact that Jesus was resurrected qualifies Him alone to be “both Lord and Christ” (Acts 2:36) and to be “the saviour of the body” (Eph. 5:23) which is His church (Col. 1:18). When we make the “good confession” (1 Tim. 6:12) we proclaim our faith that God will “giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Cor. 15:57).

Have you confessed that “Jesus Christ is the Son of God”? (Acts 8:37) If not He “will...also deny [you] before” His “Father which is in heaven.” (Matt. 10:32-33) Sooner or later we all will make this confession (Phil. 2:11). Wouldn't you rather make that confession now than later?

“But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?”

1 John 3:17