

Trends

Abortion facts:

- As of 2019, New York abortion law allows for abortions all the way to full-term.
- ~35% of all pregnancies in New York City end in abortion (CDC).
- There are ~1,000,000 'legal' abortions in the U.S. per year.
- Planned Parenthood is the nation's largest abortion provider.
- A child's heart beats at 21 days; is audible at 8-10 weeks.

—via 1st Class Pregnancy Resource Center

Psalm 139:13-16: "For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. 14 I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well. 15 My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. 16 Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written..."

Sentence Sermons

"I've noticed that everyone who is for abortion has already been born." —Ronald Reagan

News & Notes

Please pray for Zachary Wallace. He is not faithfully attending services as he should (Heb. 10:24-25). "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." (Jas. 5:16)

Please keep sister Wilma Cardwell in your prayers. She's an encouragement to all!

Pray for all our members who do not attend regularly. Try to encourage them!

Pray for the African appeal for funds to buy Bibles, songbooks and support faithful preachers' travel expense. Donate if you're able! 1 Jn. 3:17

Another 6.9 earthquake hit the southern Philippines. There have been over 3,000 tremblers since this terrible disaster first hit October 16th. Remember, we are "tools of God's providence" for those in need! Jas. 2:14-17; 1 Jn. 3:1-7

Pray that Westside might be an influence for good in this community.

Pray for the all of our students: elementary, secondary and college. Our young people face many trials and temptations at school.

There are many needy saints, including preachers! Can you help?!

Anyone need prayers? Let us know so we can announce it and post it.

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

John 6:68



"without faith it is impossible to please Him"

Craig Thomas

We continue examining 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). Today let's consider what we must "believe" in order to be saved.

1) **We must believe in God.** Hebrews 11:6 says "without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." Note two things are involved: 1) belief in God's existence, and 2) belief that God rewards "those who diligently seek Him." Importantly, 'belief' goes beyond a mere mental process; some vague mental recognition that God exists. Belief requires **obedience** to His word (Lk. 6:46). Jesus said, "He that believeth on the Son hath eternal life; but he that obeyeth not the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abideth on him." (ASV) James tells us "the demons believe – and tremble!" (Jas. 2:19) So a 'belief' that saves goes beyond recognition of God's existence to obedience of His word, for "faith without works is dead" (Jas. 2:20).

2) **We must believe the gospel.** In Mark 16:15-16 Jesus said to His disciples, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." He also told them the one "who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned." Believe — or not believe — what? The gospel! Those who believe and obey the gospel message will have forgiveness of sins (Rom. 6:16-17); those who do not believe and obey it will be condemned to eternal punishment (2 Thess. 1:8).

3) **We must believe Jesus is the Christ.** As John concluded his gospel, he told us he recorded Jesus' miracles so "that you may believe." Believe what? "[T]hat Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name." As we read, we accept the evidence that leads us to believe and faithfully obey the Lord's teachings (Lk. 6:46) and receive the benefits of that "obedience of faith" (Rom. 1:5). Or, we reject it and remain an unbeliever, receiving the punishment for having done so (Jn. 8:24).

The faith that saves believes and obeys the commands that bring forgiveness of sins. "And many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed and were baptized." (Acts 18:8) Do you believe? Have you confessed your belief? (Rom. 10:9, 10) Have you turned from your sins? (Acts. 17:30) Have you been "baptized into Christ" (Rom. 6:3) "for the remis-

sion of sins"? (Acts 2:38; 22:16) If not, why not call us today so we can assist you in obeying God?

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 teaching 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; cf. Acts 22:16).

2) **We Can Be Saved Outside of Christ.** Since salvation, redemption, forgiveness of sins, the love of God, and His grace are all "in Christ" (Eph. 1:7; Rom. 8:38-39; 2 Tim. 2:10) 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).

"The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand. 36 He that believeth on the Son hath eternal life; but he that obeyeth not the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abideth on him."

—John 3:35-36 (ASV)

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 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!

Child Murders

Larry Hafley

"Nearly three quarters of all the murders of children in the industrialized world occur in the United States....the United States (has) the high-

est rates of childhood homicide....statistics show that the epidemic of violence that has hit younger...children in recent years is confined to the United States, where the rate of juvenile crime over the past decade has grown at a far faster clip than that for adults. Many nations...reported that they had no homicides involving children under the age of 15....no explanation (was given) for the huge gap between the rates of violent death for American children and those of other countries, although...criminologists have attributed the explosion of youth crime here to...a growing faction of children who are unsupervised....Other theories blame...the prevalence of American violence on the high numbers of working women, the high divorce rate and the social acceptability of violence in the United States" (Judith Havemann, *Washington Post*, 1997).

We have been told a number of falsehoods over the years.

(1) We were told that an expanding economy would prevent the break down of society. Despite our wealth as a nation, we are in moral poverty. Does anyone still believe that an industrialized economy guarantees a civilized society? Obviously, it does not ensure that children will not be murdered on a broad scale.

(2) We were told that humanism, the denial of God, and the espousal of evolutionary theory, which says that human creatures evolved from animal critters, would lead to our salvation as a nation. We were told that once we were free from the unnatural restraints of a sexual morality based on fear and instilled by the Judeo-Christian ethic, we would be truly liberated and able to live in peace. How has this promised liberty worked? Now, it is a crime to chop down a tree where an owl might live but legal to suction a womb where a baby will die. Some theory! Some freedom!

(3) One of the arguments for the legalization of abortion was that it was better to abort a baby than to allow it to live and suffer the pain of being unwanted. We were told that abortions would mean that every baby that was born would be a child that was loved and wanted. Despite the abortion of 4,000 children per day, child abuse, torture, and murder are at unprecedented levels. Once again, someone's promise has not delivered what it promised. It is a sad society indeed when, under the protection and safeguards of constituted law, it is safer to be on death row than it is to be an unborn child in a mother's womb.

Finally, did you note the references in the excerpts from the article to "unsupervised" children, "working women," and the "high divorce rate" (Titus 2:4, 5)? How can those be factors in the murder of children? I thought the women's lib movement, day care centers to raise our children, and the freedom to divorce and bed down with whom you please were all a part of the solution to society's problems! But, alas, another myth murdered—and since you began reading this article, another child probably has been, too.

"Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, The fruit of the womb is a reward. 4 Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, So are the children of one's youth. 5 Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them; They shall not be ashamed, But shall speak with their enemies in the gate."

—Psalms 127:3-5