



commands.” That is an insult to God’s word. Another says, “works alone save.” This overlooks man’s need for forgiveness and the fact that he so often falls short. If works alone could save then man would not need Christ. Who needs forgiveness? The Bible teaches that God will save those who humbly, in faith, submit to Him to

fully obey His word. Will anyone ever flawlessly attain to everything God’s word teaches us? Of course not, but it is the duty of those who seek life to strive towards wholehearted obedience. In doing so, does man merit salvation? No, he simply does his duty (Luke 17:5-10). The child of God must avoid extremes in his thinking. Don’t begin to think “God is pleased with us EVEN IF we don’t do everything.” That is simply the doctrine of “faith only” in sheep’s clothing. On the other hand, we must avoid thinking “God will ONLY love me if I can become flawless” or “God could NEVER love me, I always stumble!” That is a doctrine of salvation by human merit, and is just as unscriptural. The biblical teaching calls for us as a frail and faltering people to strive every day to fully obey the One who shed His blood to purchase our salvation. May God help us to do this.



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Welcome Visitors

We are so glad that you joined us today.
Please come again.

● Let us know if you have any questions.

ISSUE

16.26

BULLETIN OF
THE OLSEN
PARK CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Faithful Sayings

June 29,
2014



Services

Sunday: 9:30 AM
10:20 AM
6:00 PM
Wednesday: 7:00 PM

Elders:

Pat Ledbetter
Jeff Nunn
Kyle Pope

Deacons:

Eddie Cook
Steve Dixon
Jack Langley
Neil Ledbetter
Brady McAlister
Walker McAnear
Lance Purcell
Rusty Scott

Evangelists:

Kyle Pope
Andrew Dow

Let’s Not Give the Wrong Impression

By Kyle Pope

In our teaching of God’s word here at Olsen Park we stand firmly against the denominational false doctrines of salvation “by faith alone” and “once saved always saved.” A careful study of God’s word reveals that both of these commonly held views are unscriptural and have lead scores of souls to embrace a false sense of security. It is clear that God commands us to obey Him if we would seek eternal life. Without obedience we can have no hope of salvation (see James 2:14-26; Acts 9:6; Philippians 2:12). In opposing the world’s errors on these issues we must make certain that we do not give the wrong impression. We must never lead people to think that salvation is something one can merit. We must never leave the impression that we will only be saved if we attain flawless perfection or do enough good works. This is not what Scripture teaches. It is important for us to consider the effect that our emphasis can have upon people. While we must never communicate to the world that God is pleased with anything less than our full and complete submission and obedience, at the same

time we must never forget that the true *good news* of the gospel of Jesus Christ is the offer of forgiveness to sinful man even though we have fallen short. Let's consider the following points in order to clarify this issue.

I. Who Merits Man's Salvation?

The Bible makes it clear that sin incurs a spiritual debt on our eternal account before God. Paul taught the Romans **"the wages of sin is death"** (Romans

6:23). To whom is this debt owed? It is owed to God. With what can man pay this debt? In one sense, there is nothing that man possesses that can satisfy this debt. When sin has been committed we are powerless (on our own) to be able to remove it from our account. On the other hand, the penalty demanded for sin is death, yet this is not merely physical death. All human beings will die, but the Bible teaches that one who sins is spiritually dead in the fact that they are in a state of separation from God (cf. Ephesians 2:1). To die physically in a condition of separation from God means we will face eternal separation from Him. The Holy Spirit calls this the **"second death"** (Revelation 2:11; 20:6, 14; 21:8). So although suffering the penalty for our debt of sin does in one sense *satisfy* the debt, given the fact that it is an everlasting term through which this *satisfaction* is fulfilled, on our own we can never change our condition of separation from God because of sin. What we need is a way to satisfy our debt of sin without suffering its eternal penalty.

In God's grace, the only thing that can merit man's salvation and pay man's debt of sin, is His own willingness to accept the offering of One without sin in our place. That is exactly what Jesus did! Although personally free of sin, Isaiah foretold of Jesus, that **"...the Lord laid on Him the iniquity of us all"** (Isaiah 53:6). Paul told the Romans **"while we were still sinners, Christ died**

for us" (Romans 5:8). The only thing that can cleanse a "sinner" is forgiveness. No amount of good works could ever pay the price required for sin. The mercy of God in the sacrifice of Christ is the only thing that can merit salvation.

II. How Can Man Have Access To Christ's Redemption?

Here is where so many have missed the point. Christ's death is God's part. It pays the whole debt of sin, but how does man gain access to this payment? The Bible does not teach universal salvation. Some will be lost and some will be saved. What determines who is saved and who is lost? God has done His part, what is our part? Perhaps the simplest way to put it is to use the words the Holy Spirit led Peter and James to write. James urged his readers, **"submit to God... draw near to God and He will draw near to you"** (James 4:7-8). Peter commanded **"humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God that He may exalt you in due time"** (1 Peter 5:6). What does it mean to *submit* or *humble* one's self *under* another? It certainly involves our heart. It would mean yielding our will to another. It would mean trusting in the direction and care of another. This would also involve our actions. One cannot *submit* and disobey instruction. One cannot *humble* himself *under* another while caring nothing

about his will. To access Christ's redemption man must be willing to do EVERYTHING God commands. That is submission. We must believe what He commands us to believe, think what He commands us to think, and do what He commands us to do. *Will we fall short?* Certainly, but the soul who truly cherishes the grace and mercy of God will do all within his power to obey the one who loved us and died for us (cf. Luke 17:10).

What's So Complicated About That?

There is nothing complicated about the gospel as the Bible reveals it. It is man that has complicated it by his own theories. Man says, "faith alone saves." That is saying, "you DON'T have to do everything God

