

Walking Through the New Testament with Paul the Apostle by His Life and Pen

LESSON NO. 29 - Question No. 1 What is the saving Faith that brings one to eternal salvation in heaven with Jesus? What did Paul mean when he wrote this to the Galatians?

- Galatians 2:16 knowing that a **man is not justified** [saved] by the works of the law but **by faith in Jesus Christ**, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for **by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified** [receive salvation].

Answer: We are fully convinced that Saving Faith is depends upon what one believes to be true about Jesus Christ. What one believes about Jesus and the discarding of anything untrue about Jesus are the single most important thoughts an individual will ever have! Why? One's eternity, either in heaven or in hell, depends on the answer.

The following truth is what one must **believe and trust** their eternal life upon. At the "new born" experience, one will love Jesus and commit to follow Him wherever He leads.

- **I believe** God's words to be completely true: Matthew 1:20-23 " . . do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call **His name Jesus**, for **He will save His people from their sins.**" So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying:"Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name **Immanuel,**" which is translated, "**God with us.**"
- **I believe** there was a place called Calvary outside of Jerusalem some 2000 years ago where three men were executed. Two of those men were convicted criminals. One man named Jesus was declared to be totally innocent of ANY crime, yet was executed because of religious persecution.
- **I believe** this Man, named Jesus, was the Man on the middle cross executed that day.
- **I believe** that this Man, named Jesus, is the perfect Son of God who gave His life for me to pay for my sins.
- **I believe** Jesus is God the Son as well as the perfect Man, sent from God. I believe that Jesus died, was buried, was raised again on the third day, was seen by many witnesses over many days and ascended into heaven to the right hand of God the Father.
- **I believe** I am a guilty sinner and I need Jesus to save me from my sins for which I rightly deserve eternal death.
- **I believe** there is a place called heaven.
- **I believe** Jesus, upon my death, will take me to heaven to be with Him forever.

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- John 14:1-3 [Jesus said] "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, **believe also in Me**. In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

- John 6:28 Then they said to Him, "What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?" 29 Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the **work** of God, that **you believe in Him** [Jesus] **whom He sent**."

- John 1:12 But as many as **received Him** [Jesus], to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who **believe** in His name.

- Acts 2:38 Then Peter said to them, "**Repent**, and let every one of you **be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ** for the remission of sins; and **you shall receive** the gift of the Holy Spirit.

- John 16:8-11 And when He [the Holy Spirit] has come, He will **convict** the world of **sin**, and of **righteousness**, and of **judgment**: of sin, because they do not believe in Me [Jesus]; of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; of judgment, because the ruler of this world (satan) is judged.

"When the Holy Spirit convinced me of these truths, He gave birth to the Spirit of Christ in my heart and filled me with joy. Truly, who we love determines our Present and our Eternal joy [John 14:21,23]

"In the quietness of your own heart, if you ask the Holy Spirit to reveal the truth about Jesus Christ to you, He will do so and you, also will be filled with overflowing supernatural joy.

"Salvation is NOT a matter of works of any kind. It is not joining a church or religious organization, trying to reform one's life, doing good works, making some sacrifice, signing a membership card, giving money, walking down an aisle in a religious ceremony, etc.

- Acts 16:30-31 And he brought them out and said, "**Sirs, what must I do to be saved?**" So they said, "**Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved**, you and your household."

Salvation is simply: "**Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved**"

The critical question for each human being ever born is NOT, if they will die or even when will they die, rather, the only critical question is that **when they die will they die believing in Jesus Christ** as their Savior?

All people will die **either as Criminal No. 1 or Criminal No. 2**, the men on crosses, one to the left and one to the right side of Jesus when He was crucified "Will you be like Criminal No. 1 or Criminal No. 2 upon your death? Criminal No. 2 believed and Jesus took him to heaven. Criminal No. 1 did not believe Jesus, rejected Him and, thus, by his choice is spending his eternity in hell.

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Luke 23:40-43 But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying, "Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but **this Man has done nothing wrong.**" Then he said to **Jesus**, "**Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.**" And Jesus said to him, "**Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.**"

This choice, like Criminal No. 2, needs to be settled in the privacy of your own heart **when the Holy Spirit convicts you, as He did this man, of the danger of dying outside of Jesus resulting in separation from Him forever.** When you ask the Holy Spirit to reveal the truth about Jesus Christ to you, He will surely do so and you will be filled with overwhelming joy.

At this point, full of joy, you will want to tell others about Jesus Christ, the loveliest Man who ever walked on earth and died to pay the death penalty you deserved for your sins.

Question No. 2. How does FAITH deliver us from our guilt and deserved death for violating God's Holy Law?

Answer: Those who believe and trust in Christ are "born again" with the very Spirit of Jesus Christ. At that very moment all our sins, past, present and future are counted as having been PAID IN FULL by Jesus Christ's death on the execution cross.

- John 3:3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, **unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.**"

A "newborn one" is credited with the perfect righteousness of Jesus Christ, who perfectly fulfilled every command of God in every thought, word and action.

- 2 Corinthians 5:21 For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

What happens to the "newborn one" after this new birth experience?

- 2 Corinthians 5:17-20 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, **he is a new creation**; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, **not imputing their trespasses to them**, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then, **we are ambassadors for Christ**, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.

Question No. 3. What is the Law? - Galatians 2:16 for **by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified** [receive salvation].

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Answer: Leviticus 18:4-5 You shall observe My judgments and keep My ordinances, to walk in them: I am the Lord your God. You shall therefore keep My statutes and My judgments, **which IF a man does, he shall live by them:** I am the Lord.

Only one Man, Jesus Christ, kept all of God's Laws perfectly. All the rest of humanity is guilty of violation of God's Laws and deserve the death penalty as the Law declared. Thus, all of us need a Savior!

- Exodus 20:2-17

2 "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. 3 "You shall have no other gods before Me. 4 "You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; 5 you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, 6 but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments 7 "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain. 8 "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. 11 For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it. 12 "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you. 13 "You shall not murder. 14 "You shall not commit adultery. 15 "You shall not steal. 16 "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. 17 "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's."

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