

Arlington Church of Christ

Wednesday class

By Faith Alone?

Following the Scriptural Trail



The Sinner's Prayer

Heavenly Father

I come to you in prayer asking for the forgiveness of my Sins. I confess with my mouth and believe with my heart that Jesus is your Son, And that he died on the Cross at Calvary that I might be forgiven and have Eternal Life in the Kingdom of Heaven. Father, I believe that Jesus rose from the dead and I ask you right now to come in to my life and be my personal Lord and Savior. I repent of my Sins and will Worship you all the day's of my Life!. Because your word is truth, I confess with my mouth that I am Born Again and Cleansed by the Blood of Jesus! In Jesus Name, Amen.

Read the Sinner's Prayer and be Saved

*God, I'm pretty rotten
I don't want to go to hell
I want to go to heaven
So I invite Jesus into my heart
Thanks for that
Amen*

Congratulations!



Please email me your testimony

People will often hand out tracts like these that suggest that a person can be saved by simply saying a prayer or asking Jesus into your heart. But when we look at the Bible we see this is only a part of the plan God has – and only a part will not save you !

Romans 1:16-17

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. ¹⁷ For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”

Note – the ‘gospel’ brings salvation to those who ‘believe’ – but what does it mean to ‘believe’ and to “live by faith?”

What does it mean to 'believe 'and "live by faith?"

Romans 1:5

Through him we received grace and apostleship to call all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith for his name's sake.

**Faith (belief) shows itself in obedience !
If a person truly 'believes' (has faith),
they will obey what the scriptures tell
them to do !**

Romans 16:25-26

Now to him who is able to establish you in accordance with my gospel, the message I proclaim about Jesus Christ, in keeping with the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, ²⁶ but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all the Gentiles might come to the obedience that comes from faith—



So faith must cause one to obey, but what does the Bible say is included in this 'obedience'?

Romans 10:8-13

But what does it say? “The word is near you; **it is in your mouth and in your heart**, that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim: ⁹ If **you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.** ¹⁰ For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. ¹¹ As Scripture says, “Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.” ¹² For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, ¹³ for, **“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”**


In your heart – Believe Declare with mouth – Confess
Call on name of the Lord – follow His authority

On the day of Pentecost, the people who heard Peter preach believed what he said – note what he then told them to do:


Acts 2:36-39

“Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.” ³⁷ When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles,

“Brothers, what shall we do?”

 ³⁸ Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

Acts 22:16

 And now what are you waiting for? **Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.** (What does it mean to “call on his name”?)

14 How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? ¹⁵ And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

¹⁶ But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed our message?” ¹⁷ **Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.**

Faith (belief) requires hearing the message of the gospel preached to them either by word of mouth or in the words of the written scriptures. So ‘calling on His Name’ means ‘following His authority’ – following those words !

Is public confession of faith in Jesus really necessary?

Matthew 10:32-33

“Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. ³³ But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven.

**If we refuse to acknowledge Him, He will disown us !
We cannot be a ‘secret agent Christian’ .**

Is simple belief (head knowledge) –Is just saying you believe enough? What about Abraham?

Romans 4:1-5

What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, discovered in this matter? ² If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about—but not before God. ³ What does Scripture say? “Abraham **believed** God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.” ⁴ Now to the one who works, wages are not credited as a gift but as an obligation. ⁵ However, to the one who does not work but **trusts God** who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness.

Abraham was justified by faith- trusting God – not because He did great things to earn salvation. So- Is faith enough?

James 2:20-24

You foolish person, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless? ²¹ Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? ²² You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. ²³ And the scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,” and he was called God’s friend. ²⁴ You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone.

Faith shows itself in deeds ! In fact, saying you believe without doing what the scriptures teach means nothing to God.

Hebrews 11:8-11

By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, **obeyed and went**, even though he did not know where he was going. ⁹ **By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents**, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. ¹¹ And **by faith even Sarah, who was past childbearing age, was enabled to bear children because she considered him faithful who had made the promise.**

These are all things Abraham DID, that demonstrated his faith. Abraham and Sarah showed faith by DOING what God told them to do !

**Romans 4:21-5:1 (speaking about Abraham) -
being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he
had promised. ²² This is why “it was credited to him as
righteousness.” ²³ The words “it was credited to him” were
written not for him alone, ²⁴ but also for us, to whom God
will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who
raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. ²⁵ He was delivered
over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our
justification. 5 Therefore, since we have been
justified through faith, we have peace with God through our
Lord Jesus Christ,**

**Abraham obeyed (acted out of faith that God would do what
He had promised) and the same principle of faith applies to
us today who do what Jesus commanded us to do!**

So, are we 'earning' salvation by our obedience to Christ – by following the scriptures?

No, the scriptures make it clear that our salvation is a gift and cannot be 'earned' by doing works or by keeping laws. Instead, it is our obedience – the sign of our faith- that 'justifies' us. We obey out of gratitude and recognition of the sacrifice made for us by Jesus on the cross – not out of trying to 'earn' salvation and justify ourselves, but simply because we have accepted what Christ did and obey Him out of thankfulness.

Romans 3:23-29

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. ²⁵ God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished— ²⁶ he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus. ²⁷ Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. Because of what law? The law that requires works? No, because of the law that requires faith. ²⁸ For we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law. ²⁹ Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles too? Yes, of Gentiles too,

The **‘works of the law’** are the works (requirements) of the Old Law of Moses. Those could never justify us because people could not keep all of them – only by faith (obeying the words of Jesus) can we be saved.

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Therefore, **if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!** ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹ **God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.**

So how do we get 'in Christ' and find this righteousness?

Romans 6:3-4

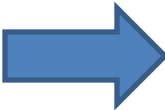
Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

**Baptism is what puts us 'into Christ'
and gives us new life**

Romans 6:16-18 Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? ¹⁷ But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you have whole-heartily obeyed the form of teaching that was entrusted to you. ¹⁸ You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness. (Obedience sets us free from sin!)

Romans 2:6-10

God “will repay each person according to what they have done.” ⁷**To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life.** ⁸ **But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger.** ⁹ There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile; ¹⁰ but glory, honor and peace for everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

 **The outcome of judgment will not be what we ‘believed in our head’, but what we believed enough to act persistently on. Is our belief in ourselves and our own ideas, or in the truth of God and His Word? Our actions will show which it is!**

Jesus said in John 14:15 – *“If you love me, keep my commands”* – and in John 15:14 – *“You are my friends if you do what I command”* - so what did Jesus command us to do in the scriptures?

John 8:24

I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am he, you will indeed die in your sins.”

Luke 13:3

But unless you repent, you too will all perish.

Romans 10:9

If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Mark 16:16

Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

Remember – this is what ‘puts us into Christ – takes away our sins’

1 Peter 3:21

and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

Acts 22:16

And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.'

Acts 2:38

Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit

So will 'Faith' save us ? It will if it is true faith – **faith that shows itself by obeying what God has said.** But simply claiming to believe is not true 'faith'. Notice what Jesus said in Matthew 7:21-23 “Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.”²² Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?'²³ Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'

Claiming to 'believe', even doing great works is not going to save you – only obedience to the words of the scriptures will save us – otherwise we will be rejected as 'evildoers' .