

THE INSTRUCTOR



“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.” (2 Timothy 3:16)

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NOTE: The following article is an excerpt from an article entitled “The Great Controversy” by the late Edd Holt. It is taken from a book entitled “VERILY, VERILY- ‘IT DOES MAKE A DIFFERENCE WHAT YOU BELIEVE.’ “

“THE WORLD IS TOO CHURCHY”

“THE WORLD IS TOO CHURCHY”
HY, that is, there are too many religious bodies in the world. at “*an old-fashion altar*” so many years ago. Or he may ask, “Were you saved at “*an old-fashion altar*”? Or he may say, “If you want to be saved, you need to find you ‘*an old-fashion altar*’ somewhere and get down on your knees and pray through to salvation.” But he never gives one verse of Scripture that teaches such!

Let us examine (try, test, prove) the above statements in the light of the NT and see what it teaches relative to the things that are mentioned above and that are taught by many preachers. (See Matt. 7:15-20; 1 John 4:1; Eph. 5:6; Col. 2:8; Rev. 2:2).

There is not one verse in the NT that even mentions “*an old-fashion altar*”.

There is not one verse that teaches that we should find “*an old-fashion altar*” somewhere.

There is not one verse that teaches that we should pray at “*an old-fashion altar*” somewhere.

teaches that an alien sinner can be saved by “*praying through*”.

NOTE: Preachers who preach praying through at “*an old-fashion altar*” are false teachers! They should be so ashamed of themselves that they would quit preaching such false doctrine!

Let us go to the NT and see what it teaches alien sinners to do in order to be saved from past sins.

Sinners are taught that in order order for them to come unto God, they “**must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.**”

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Editorial...

"WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED"

(Concl.)

In our previous article we showed from the Scriptures: I. What It Means To Be Saved, II. Consider Question Of Our Text, and, III. What Is The Lord's Answer? Let us resume our study.

According to the Scriptures, a sinner **must believe, repent, confess** faith in Jesus Christ as Lord, and **be baptized** in water for the remission of sins. At this point, a sinner is washed in the blood of Christ. He is saved from his past sins! His past sins are forgiven him! He becomes a child of God by faith! He is saved by grace! He is added to the church by the Lord!

IV. WE MUST LIVE A DEVOTED, FAITHFUL LIFE AS A CHILD OF GOD TO BE SAVED ETERNALLY!

We must be devoted to the Lord enough that we are willing to obey His will and be faithful to Him in all matters. Let us care-

fully consider the following passages.

---Heb. 5:8-9- "**Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him.**"

---Matt. 6:33- "**But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.**"

---Rev. 2:10- "**...Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.**"

---Rev. 22:14- "**Blessed are they that do his commandments that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.**"

---1 John 2:15-17- "**Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.**"

---Also see John 4:23-24; Hebrews 10:23-25; Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:1-2; Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16; Acts 2:42; Phil. 4:9; Rom. 12:1-2, 9-21; James 1:26-27; 2 Cor. 7:1; Matt. 10:34-37; Gal. 6:1-10; Eph. 5:11; 6:10-18; Col. 3:1-15; Titus 2:1-10; 1 Peter 4:12-16; 2 Pet. 1:5-11; Luke 6:31; Gal. 5:19-26; 1 John 4:1; 2 John 9-11; Jude 3; 1 Cor. 10:5-14, etc.

V. HOW CAN WE KNOW WE ARE SAVED?

A. *Not by our "feelings"!*
Saul of Tarsus was a persecutor of saints before he became a Christian.

---We learn from Acts 8:3- "**As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and**

women committed them to prison.” Later Saul, who was then a true disciple of Christ, referring back to that period of time said: “...how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it” and that the churches in Judea had heard “That he which persecuted us in times past now preacheth the faith which once he destroyed” [Gal. 1:13, 23].

---Referring to that period of time, Saul (who was now Paul) said: “I verily thought within myself that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. Which thing I also did in Jerusalem: and many of the saints did I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I gave my voice against them. And I punished them oft in every synagogue, and compelled them to blaspheme: and being exceedingly mad against them, I persecuted them even unto strange cities.” [Acts 26:9-11]

NOTE: While committing the above mentioned atrocities and zealously following his religion, Paul later declared: “...Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day.” [Acts 23:1] Although Saul “**verily thought**” that he “**ought to do**” those things he was still a sinner and lost! Although He had a “good conscience” while doing those things, Saul was still a sinner and lost!

OBSERVATION: It is obvious that we cannot know by our “*feelings*” that we are saved! See Prov. 14:12; 28:26; Jer. 17:9; etc.

B. Not by doctrines of men!
---Matt. 15:7-9- “...But in vain

they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.”

---Titus 1:14- “Not giving heed to Jewish fables and commandments of men, that turn from the truth.”

NOTE: Since commandments of men *turn from the truth* and cause worship to be in vain, it is certain that we **cannot** tell that we are saved by following them!

C. Not by worldly wisdom!

---1 Cor. 1:20-29- “...hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe...”

---1 Cor. 3:19-21- “For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, he taketh the wise in their own craftiness. And again, The Lord knoweth the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain. Therefore let no man glory in men...”

---Also see Prov. 14:12; Isaiah 55:8-9; etc.

OBSERVATION: It is evident from these Scriptures that man’s wisdom is not trustworthy when it comes to spiritual things. We cannot know by man’s wisdom that we are saved!

D. Not by what others may say to us or about us!

---Luke 6:26- “Woe unto you, when all shall speak well of you! For so did their fathers to the false prophets.”

NOTE: Human testimony of others is no evidence that you are saved! Don’t trust it!

E. We can know that we are saved by what is written!

---1 John 5:13- “These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of

God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.”

NOTE: This passage is clear and plain. We can *know* that we have eternal life (are saved) *by what is written* in the Scriptures!

F. We can know that we are saved when we obey God’s will!

---1 John 2:3-5- **“And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.”**

NOTE: This passage is plain and very clear. We know that we know that we are in him and know him (are saved) if we keep his commandments (i.e., obey his will as set forth in the NT).

Have you been saved from your past sins? Are you in Christ where salvation is found? Do you now have eternal life in hope? If not, do not delay in believing and obeying the gospel! Choose today to enjoy the eternal bliss & happiness in heaven rather than to suffer torment in hell for ever and ever! (CRS)

NOTE: The preceding articles on **“What Must I Do To Be Saved?”** are basically the same articles with a few minor changes that first appeared in THE INSTRUCTOR in February & March, 2009.

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SENTENCE SERMONS

Loving as we ought does not empty our hearts & giving liberally does not make us poor.

* * * * *

Keep your face toward the sunshine and shadows will fall behind you.

* * * * *

A man must be foursquare [“marked by boldness & conviction: FORTHRIGHT”] to be well-rounded.

* * * * *

It is far worse to have an empty heart than to have an empty purse.

* * * * *

Hunger and thirst for truth! Study God’s Word diligently, carefully & honestly. Obey it!

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