

Anchor Of The Soul
P.O. Box 401
Spruce Pine, NC 28777

Anchor Of The Soul

Hebrews 6:19

May 2007

Salvation Essentials (No. 4)

By Sonny Smith

It is hard to believe that anyone would argue with the Son of God, yet this happens very often. This is especially true with God's plan of salvation. Jesus is the author and finisher of our faith (Heb 12:3) and He alone has the right to set forth the terms or conditions of salvation.

Just prior to His ascension, He told the apostles, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." (Mk. 16:16) A small child can easily understand this scripture, but many today read it and then proceed to say, "Lord, I know it says 'He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved,' but you're wrong Lord. It really means 'you must believe on the Lord and accept Him as your personal Savior to be saved and then you can be baptized later on to show the world that you are a Christian.'" It appears that most people, in saying this, are arguing with Jesus.

Every time we read of people being saved in the Bible, baptism is the final step in conversion. It is the act that puts us into Christ (Rom. 6:3; Gal. 3:26-27). The blood of Christ cleanses us from sin, and we contact the blood as we are "buried with Him by baptism into death." That is why the apostle Peter could say in 1 Peter 3:21 that "baptism doth also now save us." That is also why Philip instructed the eunuch in Acts 8 to be baptized, and that is why Ananias asked Saul in Acts 22:16, "And now why tarriest thou? Arise and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord."

Is baptism essential to salvation? Based on the verses listed above, our response, without hesitation, should be "Absolutely!"

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**-Daily Bible Reading Schedule-
May 2007**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Morning</u>	<u>Evening</u>
1	1 Sam. 1-2	1 Pet. 1-2
2	1 Sam. 3-4	1 Pet. 3-4
3	1 Sam. 5-6	1 Pet. 5
4	1 Sam. 7-8	2 Pet. 1-2
5	1 Sam. 9-10	2 Pet. 3
6	1 Sam. 11-12	1 Jn. 1-2
7	1 Sam. 13-14	1 Jn. 3-4
8	1 Sam. 15-16	1 Jn. 5
9	1 Sam. 17-18	2 Jn.
10	1 Sam. 19-20	3 Jn.
11	1 Sam. 21-22	Jude
12	1 Sam. 23-24	Rev. 1-2
13	1 Sam. 25-26	Rev. 3-4
14	1 Sam. 27-28	Rev. 5-6
15	1 Sam. 29-31	Rev. 7-8
16	2 Sam. 1-2	Rev. 9-10
17	2 Sam. 3-4	Rev. 11-12
18	2 Sam. 5-6	Rev. 13-14
19	2 Sam. 7-8	Rev. 15-16
20	2 Sam. 9-10	Rev. 17-18
21	2 Sam. 11-12	Rev. 19-20
22	2 Sam. 13-14	Rev. 21-22
23	2 Sam. 15-16	Jn. 1
24	2 Sam. 17-18	Lk. 1-2
25	2 Sam. 19-20	Matt. 5
26	2 Sam. 21-22	Matt. 6
27	2 Sam. 23-24	Matt. 7
28	1 Kin. 1-2	Jn. 14-15
29	1 Kin. 3-4	Jn. 16-17
30	1 Kin. 5-6	Matt. 27-28
31	1 Kin. 7-8	Acts 2

NOTE: For previous Bible reading schedules, please contact us and we will provide them to you free of charge.

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Test Your Bible Knowledge

Do You Know The Book Of Job? (answers below)

1. What were the names of Job's three friends?
2. In what land did Job live?
3. How many sons and daughters did he have?
4. What was the name of the young man who rebuked Job and his three friends?
5. How old was Job when he died?

Name That Animal: (answers below)

6. This animal spoke to the prophet Balaam as he traveled to advise Balak concerning the Israelites.
7. When Rebekah journeyed to meet Isaac for the first time, she rode upon this animal.

Challenge Question:

8. Using the scriptures, define the role and work of pastors.

Bible Fact:

The shortest verse in the Bible is John 11:35... "Jesus wept." Not only is this the shortest verse in the scriptures, but it also carries with it a powerful message! Jesus cares about the salvation of His people, and He does not rejoice when mankind turns to sin and corruption. Let us dwell on this verse and strive to truly understand the care and concern of Christ!

Answers:

1. Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar (2:11); 2. Uz (1:1); 3. Seven sons and three daughters (1:2); 4. Elihu (32:1-4); 5. 140 (42:16); 6. Donkey (Num. 22:28); 7. Camel (Gen. 24:64)

Challenge Question ANSWER From April 2007:

The one commandment not restated in the New Testament is the command concerning the Sabbath day (Ex. 20:8-11). We are not instructed to observe the Sabbath day (Col. 2:14-16), but rather the first day of the week (Ac. 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:1-2). For more information, please call (828)467-1463.

Fulfilled Prophecy (Cont.)

By Andy Mitchell

Concerning His Death	Prophesied	Fulfilled
28. Betrayed by a friend	Ps. 41:9	Jn. 13:18-27
29. Sold for 30 silver coins	Zech. 11:12	Matt. 26:14-15
30. Thirty coins thrown down	Zech. 11:13	Matt. 27:3-5
31. Coins buy potter's field	Zech. 11:13	Matt. 27:6-10
32. Forsaken by disciples	Zech. 13:7	Mk. 14:27, 50
33. False witnesses	Ps. 35:11	Matt. 26:59-61
34. Silent before accusers	Is. 53:7	Matt. 27:12-14
35. Wounded and bruised	Is. 53:4-6	1 Pet. 2:21-25
36. Beaten and spit upon	Is. 50:6	Matt. 26:67-68
37. Mocked	Ps. 22:6-8	Matt. 27:27-31
38. Fell under the cross	Ps. 109:24-25	Jn. 19:17
39. Hands and feet pierced	Ps. 22:16	Jn. 20:24-28
40. Crucified with thieves	Is. 53:12	Matt. 27:38
41. Prayed for enemies	Is. 53:12	Lk. 23:34
42. Rejected by His people	Is. 53:3	Jn. 1:10-11
43. Hated without cause	Ps. 69:4	Jn. 15:25
44. Friends stood aloof	Ps. 38:11	Lk. 22:54
45. Men shake their heads	Ps. 22:7	Matt. 27:39
46. People stared at Him	Ps. 22:17	Lk. 23:35
47. Part clothes, cast lots	Ps. 22:18	Jn. 19:23-24
48. Became very thirsty	Ps. 22:15	Jn. 19:28
49. Gall and vinegar offered	Ps. 69:21	Matt. 27:34
50. His forsaken cry	Ps. 22:1	Matt. 27:46
51. Commit spirit to God	Ps. 31:5	Lk. 23:46
52. Bones not broken	Ps. 34:20	Jn. 19:32-36
53. His side pierced	Zech. 12:10	Jn. 19:34, 37
54. Blood, water from side	Ps. 22:14	Jn. 19:34
55. Darkness over land	Amos 8:9	Lk. 23:44-45
56. Laid in rich man's tomb	Is. 53:9	Matt. 27:57-60
His Resurrection/Ascension Prophesied		Fulfilled
57. Raised from the dead	Ps. 16:8-11	Ac. 2:24-31
58. Begotten as God's Son	Ps. 2:7	Ac. 13:32-35
59. Ascended to God	Ps. 68:18	Eph. 4:8-10
60. Seated beside God	Ps. 110:1	Heb. 1:3, 13

(Contact us to receive a complete list of Messianic prophecies.)

What If? By Byron Smith

The apostle Paul said, “For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.” (Phil. 1:21) As he saw it, if he continued to live physically, his resolve was to live for the Lord. But if he died, that would mean gain for him because of the achievement it would bring, that being, to “be with Christ, which is far better (Phil. 1:23). As we try to adopt his mindset, consider with me the following scenarios.

What if there is a third world war far more devastating than any that preceded it and your life is drastically altered? Or, what if terrorists attack repeatedly and the US economy is brought to shambles? Or, what if there is a pandemic of bird flu that sweeps across North America killing hundreds of thousands? Any of these things could happen, but if you are a faithful Christian possessing Paul’s mindset, *in the big picture, it really does not matter!*

What if you are in a tragic car wreck and your life is threatened, or it reduced you to a vegetative state? Or, what if you have a brain aneurysm that brings sudden death? Or, what if you are diagnosed with an incurable form of cancer? What if someone breaks into your house and your life is taken? Any of these things could happen, but again, if you are a faithful Christian possessing Paul’s mindset, it really does not matter. Now let’s consider another point of view...

What if you are not a Christian through obedience to the gospel of Christ? (1 Pet. 4:17), or you are not a faithful Christian and have “fallen from grace.” (Gal. 5:4) Do any of these things matter? Yes, indeed! In fact, *it is in the big picture that these things matter the most.* Why not change so that in death, however it comes, it will be “gain” for your soul?

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Meeting Times

Sunday

Bible Class.....10:00 AM

Morning Worship.....11:00 AM

Evening Worship.....6:30 PM

Wednesday

Bible Class.....7:00 PM

Directions

Our building is located at 36 McHone Rd just behind the Mitchell Veterinary Clinic in Spruce Pine. If you turn onto 226 South from Hwy 19, drive past Don Smith Ford/Subaru to the top of the hill. McHone Road will be on your right. Once you turn onto McHone Road, we are the second driveway on the right. You will see the sign on the top of the hill.

If you would prefer, we would be more than happy to send you additional information about the church. Or, if you would like to meet with one of our two evangelists, please contact us to set up a meeting time.

We want to help you begin or deepen your relationship with God. If there is anything we can do, do not hesitate to contact us via phone, email, or snail mail.

“The churches of Christ salute you...” Romans 16:16

Speaking As The Oracles Of God (No. 3)

By Casey Head

As we conclude this short series of articles on Bible authority, I want to discuss the subject of sin. If we can understand the *definition* of sin, then we will be aided immensely in our pursuit of the truth.

Many will define sin as “something bad.” With this vague description of sin, people are led to believe that sin is relative to each individual. “Follow your conscience,” says society. “Just do what you feel is right and you will be okay.” This may sound good, but the Bible teaches the exact opposite. Jeremiah 10:23 tells us, “O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his own steps.” If we let our conscience be our guide, then we will never be pleasing to God. Rather, we must rely on God to instruct and teach us. We are also told in Proverbs 14:12, “There is a way which *seemeth* right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.”

If sin is not determined by our conscience or society, then what does determine sin? The law of God! This is where so many people fall short. It says in 1 John 3:4, “For sin is the transgression of the law,” and in Romans 4:15, “For where there is no law, there is no transgression.” When we transgress the law of God- whether directly or presumptuously, we sin against the almighty God. Let us not engage in any religious action unless there is first Bible authority for it (1 Pet. 4:11).

Are you practicing sin? Do you attend a church that is currently engaging in unauthorized acts of worship? Please understand the seriousness of this issue, and let us know if you have any questions about this matter.

**JOIN CASEY HEAD AND ANDY MITCHELL ON
1470 WTOE EVERY SUNDAY MORNING FROM
7:30-8:00 AS WE GET “BACK TO THE BIBLE.”**

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Lightning Lesson

Paul says regarding baptism in Colossians 2:11-12, “In Whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: Buried with Him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with Him through the faith of the operation of God, Who hath raised Him from the dead.” Why is baptism compared to circumcision? Both involve a surgical procedure. In baptism, we are contacting, through faith, the operation of God, where He cuts away our sin, and we are raised from this operation to walk in newness of life (Rom. 6:3-5). This passage does not deny the necessity of baptism, but rather proves the exact opposite- that we need this operation to be saved!

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“He Left It All”

Matt. 16:26

A famous millionaire died of cancer. For weeks he suffered intolerable agony. Although surrounded by every luxury and receiving every possible care, he died as wretchedly as a pauper.

There was the usual publicity, flowers, telegrams, an expensive bronze casket and a towering beautifully carved tombstone. After the funeral, a relative turned to another and said, “How much do you suppose that Harry left?” Back came the reply, “He left everything he had.”

Yes, Harry could take not one thing with him. He worked harder than a slave would. He grasped, saved, cheated, lied and where legally possible, he stole as he amassed his great fortune. He lived for self. He left all he had. He faced God without hope or plea. Harry was a poor fool.

C. Leslie Miller

The Oneness Doctrine

By Casey Head

As more and more people flock to the Pentecostal denomination, the oneness doctrine is gaining in popularity. What is the oneness doctrine? It says that “the Godhead consists of but **one** personality who manifests Himself in various functions.” While this doctrine finds its origin in recent history (1913-1914), let us go to the scriptures to prove its error. As we will see, the Godhead contains three *distinct* members.

We are told in John 1:1, “In the beginning was the word (Jesus), and the Word *was with God*, and the Word was God.” Not only does this verse affirm the deity of Christ, but it also furthers the point that Jesus and the Father are distinct, as Jesus was *with* the Father in the beginning. The language of this verse clearly denies the teachings of the Pentecostal denomination.

Later in John 1, another point is made to prove that Jesus and the Father are distinct. In John 1:14, the apostle records, “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us.” Jesus lived among men and was seen by thousands of people, yet we are told in verse 18, “No man hath seen God (the Father) at any time.” Do you see the point? While God has never been seen by any man, Jesus was seen by thousands of men. This point would not be true if Jesus actually was/is the Father. Clearly, they are distinct.

One of the most powerful points we can make in denying the oneness doctrine comes from John 8:17-18, which says, “It is also written in your law, that the testimony of **two** men is true. I am one that bears witness of Myself, and the Father that sent Me beareth witness of Me.” Jesus here makes a clear distinction between Himself and the Father above. He served as a witness and the Father served as another witness. Two witnesses. According to the oneness doctrine, this would have been impossible.

Although we have only considered three passages in denying the oneness doctrine, many more exist. We have sufficiently denied this teaching of the Pentecostal denomination. If you have any questions or would like to know more about this subject, please contact us.