

North Christian Church - Pastor Ed Collins

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9/17/15 - The Gospel, Salvation, & Sanctification - Part 3

Outline:

"contend"

from epagonizomai - comes from the fierce competition of the athletic field; means to struggle; to fight with all one's strength (ref: to preserve "the faith")

"once for all"

from hapax - means ; refers to the fact that the Gospel message was given to the Church at the beginning; it had not come in installments; it's content is fixed, not to be revised for each new era

Faith

Faith WILL produce works. It is the great litmus test for those who proclaim to be saved. It's impossible for a believer to NOT produce works. If a professor of faith never produces fruit, they are proven unsaved.

3 Elements of Faith

- Strong & Berkhof -

- Knowledge (notitia - the intellectual element)
- Assent (assensus - the emotional element)
- Trust (fiducia - the volitional (voluntary) element)

Salvation Is Personal

Jesus Christ made salvation a PERSONAL issue, NOT a doctrinal one. Only FAITH from God (not human faith in doctrines) can save, it is a gift given when a person accepts Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, nothing less.

Salvation Is Personal

If God simply wanted mankind to believe in the doctrines of His Son, He could've

simply had His Spirit inspire scripture that described Him. But He didn't just do that; God became a man, a Person that we can all relate to, even now.

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Faith and Works

- Paul stated that works are NOT the basis of receiving faith (Rom 3:28).
- James stated that saving faith WILL produce works (Jam 2:17).

These are two different arguments that ought never be mashed together. They are harmonious with Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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A Person Saves Us...

...Not the Facts About Him. Jesus Christ said "Follow Me!", not just certain aspects of Me or my office or even just my good work on the Cross. He wants you to follow HIM, His PERSON.

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Saving Faith

Salvation requires a person embrace the PERSON of Christ, not simply His promises about eternal life. We must acknowledge, assent, AND trust in Him. It's one thing to trust a promise, it's another to trust a person. The true Gospel is the latter.

Faith

Who has it and who doesn't? It is through faith that a person is saved (Eph 2:8-9), so if a person has the wrong faith in the wrong gospel, they remain unsaved.