

SALVATION BY FAITH...ALONE?

What About Love?

1 Corinthians 13:13, "So faith, hope, love abide, these three, but the greatest of these is faith."

NO! The greatest of these is love! But, if we are saved by faith, and faith alone - which means love has absolutely nothing to do with our salvation - then why does God's Word say that love is greater than faith? Think about it - the greatest thing that can ever happen to a person is to spend eternity in Heaven with God. If the only way to do that is by faith, and faith alone, then faith should be greater than love. But the Word of God tells us otherwise...

Also, if faith alone (sola fide) saves us, then that means I can break the two greatest Commandments - love God above all else and love my neighbor as myself - and still be saved. Does that make any sense at all?! Oh, sure, I should love God and my neighbor, but the thing is, if sola fide is true, I don't have to love God, or my neighbor, and I can still be saved...as long as I have faith.

Faith Alone is contrary to common sense. It also contrary to Scripture sense.

"And if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing." (1 Cor 13:2)

"For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision or uncircumcision is of any avail, but faith working through love." (Galatians 5:6).

"And this is His commandment, that we should believe in the Name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another."

In order to be saved, we need to believe and love - faith and works - not just have faith alone. Salvation by faith alone (sola fide) is THE core belief of many denominations. Yet, there is only one passage in all of Scripture where the phrase "faith alone" appears:

James 2:24, "You see that a man is justified [saved] by works, and not by faith alone."

Why does the Holy Spirit inspire James to write the exact opposite of this dogma of sola fide? "So faith, by itself, is dead," (James 2:17). "Faith, apart from works, is barren," (James 2:20).

"For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so faith apart from works is dead," (James 2:26).

Did you catch that analogy? Just as body and spirit are necessary for physical life, so faith and works are necessary for spiritual life. Faith alone does not save.

"For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God - not because of works, lest any man should boast," (Ephesians 2:8-9).

"Amen!" says the Catholic. But many people seem to forget that, Paul, who wrote Ephesians 2:8-9, also wrote Ephesians 2:10, "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." God has prepared for each of us a set of good works that we should walk in them. So, it is God's will that we do these works. And, if we don't do God's will for our lives, what happens? "Not every one who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the Kingdom of Heaven, but he who does the will of My Father Who is in Heaven."

The Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30)

Finally, the Parable of the Talents slams the door shut on salvation by faith alone. The two servants who do something with what their master has given them, enter into the joy of their master...they are saved. The one servant, who though he believes in his master, does nothing with what his master has given him. What happens? Is he saved? Does he enter into his master's joy? No! He is cast into the outer darkness where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth.

"If we love one another, God abides in us and His love is perfected in us," (1 John 4:12)

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