

CHRIST DIED IN VAIN IF

Author Unknown

The apostle Paul wrote the Galatians letter to warn the church against false teachers. The primary false teaching was that the Gentile Christians must be circumcised and keep the law of Moses to be saved. Paul writes to warn against falling from grace by turning back to the law (Gal 5:4). Paul reasons in the text that if the law could save Christ died in vain (Gal. 2:21). Christ died in vain "if" many of the doctrines of today are true—if.

As noted above, **Christ died in vain if the law saves.** If one could be saved by the Old Testament law, then the death of Christ was unnecessary, thus in vain. The law could not (cannot) save (Gal. 3:21; 5:3-4). The law was given because of transgressions until Christ came and was only a shadow of that which was to come (Gal. 3:19; Heb. 10:1). The law was taken out of the way and replaced by the law of Christ (Col. 2:14; Rom. 7:5-7; Heb. 8:6-13; 2 Cor. 3:6-18).

Christ died in vain if there is no resurrection. If there is no resurrection, there is no eternal life. If there is no eternal life, there is no real salvation. Our faith is vain because it is in a risen Savior. All preaching of Christ is vain if there is no resurrection (1 Cor. 15:12-21). If there is no resurrection, Christ is still in the grave and has not destroyed him who has the power of death (1 Cor. 15:16-17, 22-26). Therefore, if there is no resurrection Christ died in vain.

Christ died in vain if we can be saved without the shedding of blood. There are those who deny the need or necessity of blood. Some have gone so far as to remove the mention of it from their songs. Was the shedding of blood necessary? Yes. Without the shedding of blood, we could not be saved (Heb. 9:12-22; 10:4, Rom. 3:25; 5:9; Eph. 1:7; 1 Pet. 1:19).

Christ died in vain if the church is unnecessary. If one can be saved outside the Lord's church, Christ died in vain. All the saved are in the church (Acts 2:47). Christ died for the church (Acts 20:28; Eph. 5:25-27; Gal. 1:4), to save it.

Christ died in vain if morality alone will save one. How many times have you heard some talk about a person, and say, "If anyone will be saved this person was?" They talk about the goodness of that individual. Surely, one must be a good person (live a good moral life) (Titus 2:12). But will morality alone save? No, because all have sinned (Rom 3: 10, 23). And only the blood of Christ can save one from their sins (1 Pet. 1:19). The blood of Christ is applied to one's sins in obedience to the gospel (Rom. 1:16; 1 Pet. 1:19-22).

Christ died in vain if you die lost. He died in vain as far as you are concerned. He died that you might be saved, but you refused His sacrifice.

Before You Forward That Email...!

Author Unknown

[Here is an article worth your consideration. The Internet, especially emails, are great ways to communicate today. But we need to be careful that we do not "send" or "forward" information that is unscriptural or immoral. Peter wrote long ago by inspiration; "If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen." (1 Peter 4:11). The apostle Paul said it this way; "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers." (Ephesians 4:29). Therefore, what we put on Twitter, MySpace, Instagram, Facebook pages, etc., or forward by email, implies we agree with what is communicated. If it is immoral or unscriptural in nature, then we become just as guilty of sin as the person who originated it (Romans 1:32; 2 John 9-11). I believe if we will follow the three rules below, as well as the principles discussed in the article above, we will do well and therefore avoid the corrupt and evil communications that seem to be commonplace on the internet today. Let us, as Christians, use this great communication tool for only good. *Editor's Note from the Northside church of Christ bulletin, Calhoun, Georgia*]

Before forwarding that next e-mail, consider the following:

Is It Morally Correct? Inasmuch as "A merry heart makes a cheerful countenance" (Proverbs 15:13), it is nice to send and receive jokes and humorous stories, but care must be exercised in doing so. The Scriptures describe "coarse jesting" as behavior that should "not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints" (Ephesians 5:3-4). If it contains sexual humor, thus trivializing sin (I Corinthians 6:18; I Thessalonians 4:3-4), it is coarse and should not be forwarded. If it contains "filthy language" (Colossians 3:8) it is likewise coarse and should not be forwarded. If the joke itself is harmless, but contains gratuitous profanity, at least delete the offensive words before sending it.

Is It Factually Correct? Remember that "Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, but those who deal truthfully are His delight" (Proverbs 12:22). If you are less than certain that the information received is accurate, then verify it before sending it on. Websites like snopes.com exist for the single purpose of vetting rumors and urban legends. Information that cannot be validated is not worth sharing. This is especially important when the content is critical of another because "whoever spreads slander is a fool" (Proverbs 10:18).

Is It Scripturally Correct? If the message on your screen mentions God, prayer, miracles, or the antichrist, do yourself and everyone else a favor: back it up with book, chapter, and verse (2 John 9; Revelation 22:18-19). Otherwise, don't send it because what you share may lead others astray (James 3:1).

NEWS AND NOTES

“I was sick, and ye visited me...” (Matthew 25:36)

Gerald George will be having double by-pass heart surgery this week at NEA Baptist. *Roxanna Loggins* had successful surgery last Tuesday and is now home recovering. *Brandie Hudson* is very ill at home suffering with COPD. *John Robertson* began treatments last week. *Ryan Hopkins, son of Jan Hopkins*, remains at NEA Baptist room 5128. *Sandra Sherman* is now in the Constant Care Unit at St. Bernard’s Hospital. *Randy Oden* had a heart catherization on Thursday and is awaiting results.

Please continue to pray for all of these and others who are at home recovering from recent surgeries, confinement, or bereavement.

IN OTHER NEWS:

“Let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works.” (Hebrews 10:24)

Ukraine Missions Buckets: December items are baby powder and clothes lines.

December Ladies’ Night Out will be December 13th, tomorrow night, at 6:30 p.m. in the basement. Please bring finger food with a Christmas theme, a holiday picture of yourself when you were younger, and an ornament to exchange.

<i>Those Privileged To Serve</i> December 12, 2021		NUMBERS FOR THE WEEK Week Of December 5, 2021
SUNDAY MORNING Song Leader: Ben Johns Opening Prayer: Barry Roush Closing Prayer: Carroll Morris Bible Reading: David Dye Preacher: Terry Joe Kee	SUNDAY EVENING Song Leader: Mark Wooten Opening Prayer: Jerry Dodson Closing Prayer: Craig Nelson Preacher: Terry Joe Kee	Sunday Bible Study 100 Sunday AM Worship 108 Sunday PM Worship 81 Wednesday Bible Study 68 Contribution \$5804
LORD’S TABLE Presiding: Stacy Eddleman Reginald Read Mike Felts David Loggins Scott Pratt Hal Baugh James Johnson	WEDNESDAY NIGHT December 15, 2021 Song Leader: Mark Wooten Opening Prayer: Mark Brewer Closing Prayer: Caleb Krimmel	<p style="text-align: center;">“Seest thou a man wise in his own conceit? there is more hope of a fool than of him.”</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Proverbs 26:12</p>
ANNOUNCEMENTS Dan Nichols	DEVOTIONAL SPEAKER December 15, 2021 Jason Garland	

The Friend of Truth



Greensboro Road church of Christ
Jonesboro, Arkansas 72405

(870) 932-3920

“Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?” (Galatians 4:16)

Vol. XXIX, No. 50

December 12, 2021

KeeNotes

“Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments” (Exodus 20:4-6).

The first commandment condemns the worship of any god other than Jehovah God. The second condemns making any image of Him. The thundering from the mount had hardly ceased before they were making a golden calf in the image of God. Jereboam built golden calves after the kingdom was divided (I Kgs. 12). Ahab built up places to worship Baal (I Kgs. 16:29-33). And many more examples could be given.

They were not to make any image but rather were to worship Him as He had revealed Himself with all wisdom, power, and love. God did not send sculptors and painters to make images, but He sent prophets to declare His holiness, justice, righteousness, and love and to also condemn idolatry (Isa. 44). We come together to worship with this understanding of God. We do not come with crucifixes, clergy, robes, and titles, but as God directs us in His Word. Many gather to “worship” Him but not according to righteousness as delivered in the scriptures.

The second commandment is an enemy to all unscriptural practices in religion. Pomp, ceremony, and ritualistic maneuvers with images, icons, flags, etc. have no place in worshiping the true and living God of heaven! When one is tempted to prostrate himself before such images, I am reminded how Peter said, “Stand up; I myself also am a man” when Cornelius bowed down before him (Acts 10:26).

How does this apply today? (1) God reveals Himself today through Christ (John 1:14-18; John 14:6-9). He would have us to know Him (John 17). (2) He is a Spirit (John 4:23,24). The only image we have that expresses any likeness to God is the spirit of man (Eph. 4:20-24). (3) If one will take the time to read what Paul declares of Him, we can see a summary of all that He is (Acts 17:22-31).

Terry Joe Kee

SHEPHERDS
 Dan Nichols
 Randy Oden
DEACONS
 Scottie Blanchard
 Jerry Dodson
 Stacy Eddleman
 Mike Felts
 Jason Garland
 Scott Pratt
 Kevin Roush
 Mark Wooten
MISSIONARIES
 Samrit Kammanee,
 Southeast Asia
 Micah Robertson,
 Montana
 Warren, PA
SERVICES
SUNDAY
 Classes 9:00 a.m.
 Worship 10:00 a.m.
 5:00 p.m.
WEDNESDAY
 Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear the Word of God
 Romans 10:17
Believe the Word of God
 John 8:24
Repent of your sins
 Luke 13:3
Confess your faith in Jesus as the Son of God
 Romans 10:9,10
Be Baptized for the remission of your sins
 Acts 2:38
Live faithfully
 Revelation 2:10
“Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.” (John 4:35)

Each One Invite One in Twenty-One