

# Redwater Restorer

"The voice of one crying in the wilderness..." (Matthew 3:3)

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## Fifteen Things That Save

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### Services:

Sunday  
Bible Class 10:00 a.m.  
AM Worship 10:45 a.m.  
PM Worship 6:00 p.m.

### Wednesday

Bible Class 7:00 p.m.

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Four States  
Lectures  
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Camp Ida Youth  
Encampment  
June 6th-11th  
June 13th-18th  
June 20th-25th  
June 27th-July 2nd

**Salvation**, the most important problem in man's life, is clouded with confusion. Opinions on the question are numerous, such as "everyone will be saved," "just be sincere and do the best you can," etc. One of the most popular answers to the question "What must I do to be saved?" is "only believe." This doctrine is known as "faith only," and its popularity is on a tremendous increase. It is a popular revival theme and with it thousands claim remission of sins having never seen a baptist.

It is my conviction that God's relationship with man is so great that no verse of Scripture alone is able to express it. No man has the right in his enthusiasm for one doctrine to add the word "alone" or "only." The addition of such terms has divided the religious world on this issue for centuries. A division that is not pleasing to God! An examination of the Scripture indicates that instead of "faith alone" or "baptism alone" or "Christ only" saving us, there are at least fifteen things that save us. The word "only" does not appear with any one of them to say we are saved by it alone.

Study these verses of Scripture and you will agree that millions of good, earnest, sincere people are misled by enthusiasm for a doctrine with the word "alone" unscripturally attached.

**I. GOD SAVES US.** First let us examine the Scriptures that tell us that God saves us. It is a little out of the ordinary to hear the doctrine preached, but it is in the Word and not in obscure language at all (1 Tim. 1:1, 1 Tim. 2:3, 1 Tim. 4:10, Heb. 11:6). God saves us. The word "only" does not appear, however so we may assume that there is more to salvation than these verses express.

**II. CHRIST SAVES US.** A second series of verses indicates that Christ saves. Of course this doctrine is more familiarly known (Matt. 1:21, Luke 2:11, John 1:29, John 14:6). Now it would have been most unfair had we inserted the word "only" after each expression "God saves us," for that would have eliminated the fact that Christ saves.

**III. WE ARE SAVED BY CHRIST'S LIFE.** Read thoroughly the New Testament and the importance of Christ's life shines forth in relationship to Salvation (Rom. 5:10, Heb. 7:25, 1 Cor. 15:17-18). So we would make a sad mistake in saying "God alone saves." These

verses plainly tell us that we are saved by Christ's life.

**IV. SAVED BY CHRIST'S DEATH - HIS BLOOD.** In the light of the above passages, we read with interest another doctrine; we are saved by Christ's blood (Rom. 5:8-9, Eph. 1:7, Heb. 9:22). Thus God saves, Christ saves, Christ's life saves, His blood saves. How deserving of the plagues of Revelation we would be to add the word "only" to any one of these doctrines of the New Testament. The word "only" excludes all others. However, we must study more of the Scriptures if we are to handle it aright (2 Tim.2:15).

**V. SAVED BY GRACE.** A familiar expression in the Bible is "Saved by grace", so we must add this to our study (Eph. 2:8, Rom. 3:23-24, Titus 2:11). This is wonderful teaching. Thank God that He is favourably disposed to sinful man, for we are all sinners. Let us not get enthusiastic however to the extent that we use the word "only" and say "we are saved by grace only," for there are other wonderful doctrines to be considered.

**VI. SAVED BY THE GOSPEL.** Another series of verses may be shown to indicate that man is saved by the Gospel (1 Cor. 15:1-2, Rom. 1:16, 1 Cor. 1:18, 21). The world needs to hear the good tidings of God. The Gospel must be preached in this age or we shall be hopelessly lost. We dare not say "the Gospel alone" saves, however.

**VII. SAVED BY CALLING ON THE NAME OF THE LORD.** By reading God's word we learn that men may be saved by calling on the name of the Lord (Rom. 10:13). The Bible, being its own commentary, informs us that we "call" on the Lord by obeying his commands (Acts 22:16). Of course this is not all the picture, so we must not create a theology of "calling only."

**VIII. SAVED BY WORDS.** An examination of the Word teaches us that words save us (Acts 11:14, Heb.4:12, James 1:21). Words are powerful, for Hebrews 11:3 tells us that the worlds were framed by the Word of God. Now "words" save us but not "words alone." When men insert the word "alone" they make a qualification and limitation that God never intended.

**IX. SAVED BY HOPE.** A very important New Testament subject is hope and we find that it will save (Rom. 3:24, 1 Peter 1:3). If we dared to add the word "alone" to make the Scripture read "hope alone" then the doors are thrown open for many to enter. The so-called "good

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moral man" would have the Scripture to give him consolation and so would others who do not desire to be obedient but who hope and trust in their own self-righteousness.

**X. SAVED BY REPENTANCE.** One of the oldest sermons ever preached is on the subject of repentance. It is important to us in this study for we find that it saves (Acts 8:22, Acts 3:19). Thus far in our study we have not been allowed to magnify one doctrine above all others and exclude all others by the word "alone" thus we see it would be anti-scriptural here as well.

**XI. SAVED BY CONFESSION.** A person who believes will confess his faith and we have the assurance that confession saves us (Rom. 10:9, Matt 10:32). It is evident however that Christ did not teach "confession alone." Likewise the book of Romans gives no room for the insertion of the word "alone". We are not saved by God alone, Christ alone, words alone, or by any one phase of teaching alone.

**XII. SAVED BY FAITH.** We come now to a doctrine that delights the heart of men. It is a teaching that is handled lightly and is accepted far and wide. The Scriptures teach us that faith saves. Men change the word and say "faith alone" saves. Examine these Scriptures (Acts 16:31, Rom. 5:1, Rom. 3:28, Gal. 3:24-26, Heb 10:39). Observe that the Scriptures speak of faith saving just as they speak of God saving, Christ saving, grace saving, confession saving, etc. Faith saves! However, this is not stated with one bit more emphasis than the other requirements of salvation are stated. There is absolutely no room for the word "only," yet denominational men are crying out "faith alone saves." The words "faith" and "alone" appear together only once in the New Testament. That one place teaches that we are NOT SAVED BY FAITH ONLY. Read it: James 2:24 *"Ye see that by works a man is justified, and not only by faith."* The Scriptures teach the exact opposite to the doctrines of men.

**XIII. SAVED BY WORKS.** Many great controversies have resulted over the doctrine of works. In this study of salvation let us give work its rightful place, for work saves us (James 2:17, James 2:22, James 4:17, James 2:24-26). The latter verse gives a proper balance between faith and works. Men are not saved by faith only. The statement is clear and leaves no room for private interpretation. Neither does the Scripture say that a man is saved by works alone. Work does save when all other things are in their rightful place.

**XIV. SAVED BY BAPTISM.** A command concerning salvation at which many stumble is Baptism. The New Testament is just as emphatic that baptism saves. Examine carefully the Word, the Divine Word of God (Acts 2:37-38). Why did Peter not say "only believe?" Because the congregation already believed. Belief caused them to

ask what they had to do to be saved. Peter gave to them the next steps that they needed to take in order to be saved. The Philippian jailor was told to believe on the Lord because that was the first step for him (Acts 16). The apostles took men from where they were to the next step. The answer to the question "What must I do?" depends upon the "I," hence different answers are given to the same question. In none of the answers does the word "alone" appear. Let us make that point clear. In none of them does the word "alone" appear. Baptism saves! (1 Peter 3:20-21) This verse refutes men. Men refute this doctrine. I choose to believe God. I choose to heed the warning of Revelation 22:18 "I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, if any man shall add unto them, God shall add unto him the plagues which are written in this book." I do not want the plagues of God.

**XV. SAVE YOURSELF.** One other teaching should be considered for it is as plain as the others. The Word says "save yourselves" (Acts 2:40). It does not say you alone are your saviour. You cannot lift yourself by your own bootstraps but you can save yourself by your own decision to do so. You can float downstream like a dead fish or you can go upstream to the source of life (Phil. 2:12). Those many verses express the wonderful salvation provided by our Father. God, Christ, life, blood, grace, the Gospel, calling on the name of the Lord, words, hope, confession, repentance, faith, works, baptism, and yourself combine to enable you to possess God's glorious salvation. This is the whole counsel of God. You can not select one and one only and have the assurance of salvation. It is not faith only, baptism only, self only, etc. that saves, but all of these are essential to salvation. Not just one item saves but all fifteen.

Have you gone all the way with God's Word or have you had a doctrinal hobby? Do not gamble with salvation for when you do "you bet your life."

These fifteen things are not all the subjects that could be introduced. Were we to take a concordance and check all references of related subjects and synonyms, such as redemption, reconciliation, justification, pardon and forgiveness the list could be greatly expanded. We do encourage you to search for the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. Then and then only will you have the truth that can set you free (John 8:32) When you find it, obey it (1 Pet. 1:22,23), and God will save you.

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