

## FAITH ALONE CANNOT SAVE

Faith is a necessary and integral element of God's plan to save man. "Without faith it is impossible to please [*God*]: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him" (Heb. 11:6). However, faith alone has never, nor will ever, save anyone.

Satan believes in God (Gen. 3:4-5; Job 1:7), but no honest individual would believe that faith alone will save Satan. Satan "is a liar, and the father of it" (John 8:44). The "devils also believe, and tremble" (Jam. 2:19), but no honest individual would claim that demons will be saved by faith alone. Satan and his followers will spend eternity in the eternal fires of Hell (Mat. 25:41), not with the saved believers of God. Faith alone could not save the chief rulers of Jesus' day. "Among the chief rulers also many believed on Him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God" (John 12:42-43). Jesus' disciples were believers, but "many of His disciples went back, and walked no more with Him" (John 6:66). Faith alone could not save them. A hand-picked and appointed apostle of Jesus Christ is surely considered among those who believe in God. Sadly, however, sometime after Judas' appointment, he fell away. Judas betrayed the Son of God and Jesus considered Judas to be as lost as "a devil" (John 6:70-71). Judas had faith, but faith alone could not save him.

A true believer is one who will act positively and honestly based upon the truth of God's Word (John 17:17). A true believer is one who obeys the truth that he has been taught (Rom. 10:17; John 8:31-32). A true believer is one who repents of his past sins (Acts 2:38), confesses that Jesus is the Christ (Rom. 10:9-10; John 12:42), "and is baptized" (Mark 16:16) in order to have his sins washed away (Acts 22:16). A true believer is one who lives faithfully, in accordance with God's Word, until death (1 John 1:6-9; Rev. 2:10). Faith alone cannot save. Faith without repentance cannot save. Faith without confessing Jesus to be the Son of God cannot save. Faith without baptism cannot save. God states it clearly, "even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone...Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and ***not by faith only***" (Jam. 2:17, 24).

- *Brad Green*