

Reflections

Volume 1 Issue 15

A Weekly Publication Of The Pine Street Church Of Christ

July 6, 2008

Pine Street
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ASSEMBLY TIMES

Sunday Bible Study
9:45 AM

Sunday Worship
10:45 AM & 6:30 PM

Wednesday Bible Study
7:30 PM

RADIO PROGRAM

"For The Glory Of God"
8:45-9:00 AM
MAGIC 99.5 FM
Cable Channel 15

WEB SITE
www.pinestreetcoc.com

Reflections is a weekly publication of the Pine Street church of Christ including Bible-based articles for the spiritual edification and education of all readers. Please contact us if you have comments or questions about the content of the paper.

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

By Jeremy D. Joy

What must I do to be saved? The right answer can result in eternal salvation, but the wrong answer can lead to eternal condemnation. It is important to find the right answer, but the search can be confusing because there are many answers in religion. The unbeliever says "do nothing" because there is no salvation. The universalist says

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because everyone will be saved. The classic Calvinist says "do nothing" because only the elect will be saved unconditionally. The Evangelical today says "do nothing" because salvation is by "faith only" and "doing" is equated with works that merit or earn salvation. How can we know what to believe?

Someone estimated that Calvinism has permeated 80-85% of Protestant denominationalism even though members of the same denominations may not know the origin of many of their beliefs and practices. At the core of Calvinism is a misconception of the sovereignty of God. It states that the free will of man contradicts the sovereignty of God.



**I will meditate on Your precepts, and
contemplate Your ways.
— Psalm 119:18**

Therefore, man cannot choose his salvation without "lifting himself by his bootstraps." The logical consequence is that faith originates with God and that there must be a direct and immediate operation of the Holy Spirit upon the human heart "enabling" man to believe. It sounds good, but is it true?

The answer must harmonize with the teaching of Jesus and the apostles including examples of conversion, which establish a pattern to follow today (*Colossians 3:17*). It also involves a proper understanding of basic Bible principles such as the nature of faith and its role in salvation.

Faith is the human response to the

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testimony of reliable witnesses and corroborating evidence. *“So then comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Romans 10:17)*. It involves a choice, but is it void of outward demonstration? It is true that God sees the heart, but at what point in our faith do we receive forgiveness? The Pharisees believed, but they refused to confess the name of Jesus, *“lest they should be put out of the synagogue” (John 12:42)*. Some claim that their faith was not genuine, but how do we know? *Because there was no outward demonstration!* That is the point that Jesus makes: *“He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will*

judge him in the last day” (John 12:48). We cannot have confidence about our salvation unless we conform to the teaching of Jesus and the apostles in all things.

Furthermore, the example of the Philippian jailor teaches that the command to *“believe”* was insufficient without hearing *“the word of the Lord”* and being *“baptized” (Acts 16:29-34)*. At what point in our faith are sins forgiven? It is at the point when we meet all that God has revealed including baptism. God is the *means* of salvation, obedient faith is the *condition* of salvation, and forgiveness of sins is the *result* of salvation. Our “doing” is not the

Pine Street News And Notes

“Let brotherly love continue” — Hebrews 13:1

Members of our church family who are sick and in need of our prayers: **Judy Haught** continues to improve...**Jeremy Joy** is recovering from mono.

Members of our church family who are traveling: **Jeremy and Lori** are on vacation in North Carolina...**Gary and Tracy** will be out of town this week...**Love Postlethwait** is visiting family in Virginia and Louisiana...**Barbara Williams** is visiting family in Texas.

Others who are sick and in need of our prayers: Jeremy Joy’s grandmother, **Ruth Ann Joy**, is at home recovering from double by-pass surgery...**Wanda Rockwell’s**, brother-in-law, **Bill Price**, is in poor health...**Crystal Shockley’s** grandmother, **Dorothy Myers**, is improving...**Janet Webber’s** mother-in-law, **Florence Webber**, is confined to her home.

The next Training Class will be Sunday evening, July 20. The schedule is posted on the bulletin board.

Thanks to **Tim W. Haught** for preaching last week. and **Siegel Fetty** will be preaching today and **Tim E. Haught** will be preaching next Sunday. **Jeremy** plans to preach Sunday morning, July 20.

There will be an Elders meeting on Monday, July, 7, if there is something that you would like them to discuss.

If there is something that you would like published in the “Pine Street News And Notes” section of the bulletin, please contact **Jeremy** by Saturday morning.

Is there someone who needs encouragement? Look for opportunities to encourage one another this week.

The Scripture reading today is: Psalm 119:105-112.