

In Whom Do We Place Our Trust?

Do you believe that the Bible is literally God's word or is it the writings of some good men?

Establish the authority of the scriptures

2 Pet 1:20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. 21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but **holy men of God spake** as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

1 Cor 14:37 If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I **write** unto you are the **commandments of the Lord**.

2 Tim 3:16 **All scripture is given by inspiration of God**, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

1 Th 2:13 For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it **not as the word of men**, but as it is in truth, **the word of God**, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

In Whom Do We Place Our Trust?

- Can we believe the word of men or must we look to God for answers in matters of our salvation?
- Can we understand the word of God?

Establish the authority of the scriptures

2 Tim 2:15 Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

1 Jn 4:1 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but **try the spirits** whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

Acts 17:11 These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and **searched the scriptures daily**, whether those things were so.

Eph 5:17 Therefore do not be foolish, but **understand what the Lord's will is**.

In Whom Do We Place Our Trust?

- Is God's word impossible or just sometimes difficult to understand?
- Can we have all that we need to know for our life today?
- Do all so called “Christian” religious groups agree with the Bible’s answer?

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II Pet 3:16 He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are **hard to understand**, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction.

II Pet 1:3 His divine power has given us **everything we need** for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

1 Cor 14:33 For God is **not the author of confusion**, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.

In Whom Do We Place Our Trust?

- The Mormons have apostles who claim to continue to receive new messages from God.
- The Jehovah's Witnesses' leaders claim to continue to receive new doctrine.
- Pentecostals claim to continue to receive messages from God. Many people believe that God speaks to them directly from heaven.

In Whom Do We Place Our Trust?

- Does God say the same thing to all of these groups?
- Whose teachings are we to follow, God's or man's?
- Who has authority in religion today?

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- **Mt 15:7** Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, 8 This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. 9 But in **vain** they do **worship** me, teaching for **doctrines the commandments of men**.
- **Col 3:17** And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all **in the name of the Lord Jesus**, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.
- **Mt 28:18** And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All **power** is given unto me in heaven and in earth. (KJV)
- **Mt 28:18** (NIV) Then Jesus came to them and said, "All **authority** in heaven and on earth has been given to me

In Whom Do We Place Our Trust?

- Must we obey Jesus today?
- How do we know what God wants us to do?
- What did Paul write?

In Whom Do We Place Our Trust?

- **Lk 6:46** And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and **do not** the things which I say?
- **Heb 1:1** In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, 2 but in these last days he has **spoken to us by his Son**, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe.
- **Rom 10:17** Consequently, **faith comes from hearing the message**, and the message is heard through the **word of Christ**.
- **II Tim 3:15** and how from infancy you have known **the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise** for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.
- **I Cor 14:37** If anybody thinks he is a prophet or spiritually gifted, let him acknowledge that what I am writing to you is **the Lord's command**.

Why Can't I Be Saved Like The Thief on the Cross?

- What did the thief know of Jesus?
- We don't know what the thief knew about Jesus or how he learned of Jesus' kingdom, but he had greater faith than even the disciples.
- Had the thief **seen** convincing evidence that Jesus would live again and **believe** that he was the savior?

Why Can't I Be Saved Like The Thief on the Cross?

- Lk 23:39 And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us. 40 But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? 41 And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss. 42 And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. 43 And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise
- Lk 24:17 He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?" They stood still, **their faces downcast**. ... 21 **But we trusted that** it had been he which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, to day is the third day since these things were done.
- Acts 1:6 When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, **wilt thou** at this time **restore again the kingdom to Israel?**

Why Can't I Be Saved Like The Thief on the Cross?

- Did Jesus forgive sins while on earth?
- Why did Jesus forgive sins while on earth?

Why Can't I Be Saved Like The Thief on the Cross?

- **Lk 7:47** Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little. 48 And he said unto her, **Thy sins are forgiven.** ... 50 And he said to the woman, **Thy faith hath saved thee;** go in peace.
- **Mt 9:6** But that ye may know that **the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins,** (then saith he to the sick of the palsy,) Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house.
- **Mk 2:7** "Why does this man speak that way? He is blaspheming; **who can forgive sins but God alone?**"

Why Can't I Be Saved Like The Thief on the Cross?

- Does the example of the thief on the cross set an example for us in the New Covenant or does it occur under the Law of Moses?

The New Covenant

- Who is the mediator of the new covenant?
- Why was the new covenant necessary?
- How was the old covenant put into effect?
- What had to occur before the new covenant went into effect?

The New Covenant

- **Heb 9:15** For this reason **Christ is the mediator of a new covenant**, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance--now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant.
- **Heb 8:7** For if there had been nothing **wrong with that first covenant**, no place would have been sought for another. ... 13 By calling this covenant "new," he has made the first one **obsolete**; and what is obsolete and aging **will soon disappear**.
- **Col 2:14** having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and **that stood opposed to us**; he took it away, nailing it to the cross.

The New Covenant

- When did the new covenant become effective?
- With whose blood was the new covenant put into effect?
- Had Jesus died when the thief on the cross was forgiven of his sins?
- Was Jesus' new covenant in effect when the thief on the cross was forgiven of his sins?

The New Covenant

- **Heb 9:22** In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness. 23 It was necessary, then, for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these sacrifices, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. 24 For Christ did not enter a man-made sanctuary that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God's presence. 25 Nor did **he enter heaven to offer himself** again and again, the way the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with **blood** that is not his own.
- **Luke 23:40** But the other answered, and rebuking him said, "Do you not even fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? 41 "And we indeed justly, for we are receiving what we deserve for our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." 42 And he was saying, "**Jesus**, remember me when You come in Your kingdom!" 43 And **He said to him, "Truly I say to you, today** you shall be with Me in Paradise."

The New Covenant

- Was the thief living under the time of Jeremiah or under another time prophesied by Jeremiah?
- If Jesus had to die before his covenant went into effect, what covenant did the thief on the cross live and die under?

The New Covenant

- **Jer 31:31** "The **time is coming**," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. 32 It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them," declares the LORD. 33 "This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time," declares the LORD. "I will **put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts**. I will be their God, and they will be my people."

The New Covenant

- What covenant was the woman who washed Jesus' feet under when he forgave her sins?
- Was the new covenant in force before Jesus' death?

The New Covenant

- **Luke 7:47** "For this reason I say to you, her sins, which are many, have been forgiven, for she loved much; but he who is forgiven little, loves little." 48 And He said to her, "Your sins have been forgiven."
- **Heb 9:17** because a will is in force only **when somebody has died**; it **never** takes effect while the one who made it is living.

The New Covenant

- If the new covenant wasn't in force before Jesus' death, is the example of the thief on the cross valid under the new covenant as an example that baptism was not necessary for salvation?
- If we take one thing from the old covenant (the Law of Moses) are we not bound to do the whole law?
- Did Jesus keep the law while on earth?
- Are we to keep Moses' law today or the law of Christ?

The New Covenant

- **Gal 5:3** Again I declare to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is **obligated to obey the whole law**. 4 You who are trying to be justified by law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace.
- **Mt 23:2** "The teachers of the law and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. 3 So you must **obey them and do everything they tell you**. But do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach.
- **II Jn 9** Anyone who runs ahead and **does not continue in the teaching of Christ does not have God**; whoever continues in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. 10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not take him into your house or welcome him. 11 Anyone who welcomes him shares in his wicked work.

What shall we do?

- **Act 2:36-41** Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified." Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "**Brothers, what shall we do?**" And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself." And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation." So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.