

Strange Things You Hear About The Church of Christ (#2 of 12)

“You Believe in Salvation By Works”

Text: Ephesians 2:8-10

Introduction:

1. “You believe...” Anytime someone in a conversation regarding the church of Christ begins a sentence with that phrase I cringe. If not such a serious matter, it would be humorous to consider what unknowing people profess those in the church to believe and practice.
2. In this lesson we will continue our examination of some of these strange things, today focusing on the oft embattled subject of salvation and baptism.

Discussion:

I. Some of the Claims Which Are Made

1. Those in the church believe in salvation by works!
2. Those in the church believe in “water salvation!”

II. Abused Passages Regarding Work and Salvation

1. Ephesians 2:8-10
2. Romans 4:1-7

III. Examination of God’s Teaching on Baptism and Salvation

1. Mark 16:16
2. Acts 2:38
3. Acts 22:16
4. Romans 6:1-4
5. Galatians 3:26-27
6. 1 Peter 3:21

IV. Some Miscellaneous Arguments Examined

1. “The thief on the cross proves baptism is not essential!” (Luke 23:39-43)
2. “The Bible plainly teaches faith only as the basis of salvation.” (Cf. John 3:16)

3. "Saul was saved on the road to Damascus, without baptism." (Acts 9:1-6)
4. "What about the person about to be baptized, but dies before he is able?" (James 4:14; 2 Peter 3:10-11)
5. "You are out of mainstream Christian teaching!" (Galatians 1:10; Luke 6:26)

Conclusion:

No matter what the claims made, God's Word clearly put's obedience to His will between sin and salvation. The greatest objection offered is one that is actually true: "If that is true, then so many people are lost!" (Matthew 7:13-14; John 12:48)