

“But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.” (Heb 3:13)

Must I Do Personal Work?

The Bible teaches us that sin has separated man from God (Isa. 59:1-2), and yet God wants man back (1 Tim. 2:3-4). There is nothing more important for the Christian to do than share God's desire to have all men saved with others. And yet, for many of us this is the most difficult thing God asks. Far too many of us don't share the gospel with others. Is sharing the gospel with others optional? In this article we want to consider the question, must I do personal work?

To answer the question, we need to first recognize that there is a need for personal work as all people will sin (Rom. 3:23) and suffer the consequences of sin in an eternal hell (Mt. 7:23; 25:46; Rev. 14:11; 21:8). God has always warned man of his situation through the prophets and other inspired men like Paul (Act 17:31). We need to let people know they have a choice: heaven or hell (Rom. 6:23).

Secondly, we need to recognize that the re-

sponse to that need is to share God's message of salvation with everyone. God sent good news to all men in Jesus Christ (Lk. 2:10-11). Jesus came to die and save mankind from sin (Mt. 1:21). While Jesus was alive on this earth, he chose and prepared men to take that message (Mt. 4:18-22; Jn. 20:21). He told them to take it to all the world and make disciples to carry it on to others (Mt. 28:18-20; Mk. 16:15).

Finally, we need to recognize that each person

“Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: “(1Co 15:1-4)



CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Consequences of Sin

Sin is a very powerful, yet subtle thing. It's work is always to destroy and never to edify both physically and spiritually. The domain of its reign is vast and diversified - it's everywhere. Like a computer virus, it destroys communication and equipment. Like death, it severs important, God-made relationships. Like a seed it always grows into something bigger than it

started out to be. Like termites, often the damage is done before it is detected. Like the Concorde, it appears faster than its counterpart. Like a chameleon, its presence is usually camouflaged. Like a terminal cancer, it doesn't release the host until it has sucked every ounce of life from its body. Like a teenager, it acts to be invincible. In business, it is ruthless

and knows no compassion. Like intoxicants and a variety of drugs, it offers an escape for a short time. Yet to Eve it appeared to be harmless and presented only useful qualities. It was good for food, pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise. Eating this good, "beautiful" "food" would "make one wise" even though God had forbid even it's touch. In hu-

Inside this issue:

Must I Do Personal Work?	1
Consequences of Sin	1
Second Stage Spirituality	2
Theories That Keep People From Doing God's Will	3
By Which Ye Are Saved	4

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

THE BONAIRE EXHORTER

SECOND STAGE SPIRITUALITY

“And if anyone thinks that he knows anything, he knows nothing yet as he ought to know” (1 Corinthians 8:2).

When we’ve just gotten past the beginning stage of spiritual life, there is a particular danger that we face. It is the danger always encountered in the second stage of any endeavor: **THE DANGER OF THINKING THAT WE KNOW MORE THAN WE DO.** If we don’t deal with this danger in the proper way, we will find ourselves blocked from any further progress.

The greatest barrier to gaining greater knowledge is the illusion of knowledge, the mistaken notion

that we already know much, when in reality we know very little. This barrier is often met by the “sophomore” in any field of learning. This is the individual, hardly more than a beginner himself, who looks down on others who are just starting out. The sophomore has gone far enough to have just a little wisdom (*sophos*, wise), but he’s a fool (*moros*, foolish) for failing to see how far he has yet to go.

One measure of our attitude with respect to knowledge is the amount of listening we do compared to the amount of talking. If those who know us best observe that we’re more eager to talk than to listen, then we’ve

probably overestimated how much we know. It’s good to have learned a thing or two, but it’s not good to see every person we meet as a potential audience. Solomon said, “A fool has no delight in understanding, but in expressing his own heart” (Proverbs 18:2). And James advised, “Let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak . . .” (James 1:19).

There is so much more of God than any of us have ever experienced, even in our moments of greatest maturity. His bounty is beyond what any of us have ever sought from Him. Let us not be so proud of what we know that we keep ourselves from learning what we

still NEED to know. If the truth be told, most of us are not yet even in the second stage of spiritual understanding. There are many leagues yet to travel before we leave the first! Let us be humbled at the thought of our ignorance. And having been humbled, let us have a grander vision of what there is yet to know about our great God. The half has not yet been told.

“If you have lived far from God, you may think you are very near him when you finally start a life with him. The peasant thinks he has been to court because he saw the king pass by one day” (Francois de Fenelon).— Gary Henry

Wordpoints.com



“Hearken; Behold, there went out a sower to sow: (Mar 4:3)”

who receives the gospel must take it to others. This is the force of the Great Commission (Mt. 28:18-20) and it continues today. Like the servants in the parable of the talents (Mt. 25:14-30), those who are Christians have been entrusted with the Gospel (2 Cor. 4:7). It isn’t ours to keep to ourselves, but we must commit it to others who will be faithful and teach others too (2

Tim. 2:2). All of us, like the servants in the parable, have some talent, opportunity, and the Gospel. Are we using what God has left in our care?

Must I do personal work? Yes. Not only is it our obligation, but also a wonderful privilege to help another soul out of sin. If you have learned of Christ (Mt. 11:29), you

must go and teach (Mt. 28:19)! - Phillip Stuckey

MUST I DO PERSONAL WORK? - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

CONSEQUENCE OF SIN - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

manity, sin is the choice of the day.

It is unfortunate that wherever man exists, sin is co-existent. Its producer is Satan. He projects it on the screen and desensitizes the world. He dabbles in the business world making righteousness unacceptable if advancement is desired. He goes home with us and infects our mates and our children

causing us to act out of character hence the rising divorce rate and the increasing number of posters for "lost" children. He goes to worship with us and keeps an active eye on the development of the Lord's church. He "tweaks" the various facets of the body just enough to keep it from enjoying full strength. He breeds jealousy and deception which he uses to alter good judgment. He

produces complacency and rest in the midst of the battles as when the men of old cried peace, peace when there was no peace. Like Joseph, Job, Paul, and other servants of God, may we never forget that God is still on His all powerful throne still able to count even the hair on our heads, take care of the birds who don't plant, and produce flowers more beautiful than Solomon's garments.— Bill Green



"For the wages of sin is death ..." (Rom 6:23)

THEORIES THAT KEEP PEOPLE FROM DOING GOD'S WILL

Man has come up with many theories on how to please God, yet many only seem to help us circumvent all God has said. Consider a few of these "theories" in light of what the Bible teaches.

Universalism – all will be saved, no need to do God's will - Mt. 7:13-14

Situation Ethics – the situation determines what we do, not God's will - 1 Samuel 15:22

Total Depravity – all are born depraved and sinful, thus incapable of doing God's will - John 5:40; Rev. 22:17

Predestination – all have their destinies settled, so no need to do God's will - 1 Tim. 2:4; 2 Pet. 3:9

Unconditional Election – no conditions to be met to be saved - Acts 2:37; 16:30; 22:10

Once Saved Always Saved – a saint can't fall from grace, so live how you want - 1 Cor. 10:12; Gal. 5:4; 2 Pet. 2:20-21

Not Saved By Works – no need to do God's will if "doing" does not save - Acts 10:34-35; Eph. 2:8-9; Phil. 2:12; Jas. 2:26

No "Performance-Based" Christianity – God doesn't look at what or how we're doing - 2 Cor. 5:10; Rev. 20:11-15

Direct Operation of the Holy Spirit. – no one can act until acted upon by the Holy Spirit., so just wait - Jn. 6:44-45; Rom. 1:16;

Acts 2:40; 22:16

No Eternal Hell – if no future punishment no incentive to do God's will - Mt. 25:41,46; Rev. 21:1-8; 22:14,15

Nature and Nurture – all are products of one's surroundings and so we cannot do God's will - 1 Cor. 6:9-11

Second Chance – no need to do God's will now if we will get a second chance later - Mt. 25:1-13; Lk. 16:19ff

Too Hard To Obey – To some, God's will is too hard to obey - 1 Cor. 10:13; 1 Jn. 5:3-4

Jesus tells us the way to the kingdom is difficult (Mt. 7:13-14). The sinner

must obey the gospel to be saved (Rom. 1:16; Heb. 5:9). The saint must be faithful and continue to grow (2 Pet. 1:1-11).

What we choose to do will prove whether we're wise or foolish (Mt. 7:24-27). The question to ask ourselves is whose will are we doing? God's or our own? — Phillip Stuckey

"Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men." (1Co 1:25)

BONAIRE CHURCH OF CHRIST

459 GA HWY 247 South
Bonaire, GA 31005

Phone: (478) 929-1245

E-mail: contactus@bonairecoc.org

Web: <http://www.bonairecoc.org>

What Must One Do To Be Saved?

Hear – Matthew 17:5; Romans 10:17

Believe – John 8:24; Romans 10:9

Repent – Luke 13.3; Acts 2.38

Confess– Romans 10:9-10; Acts 8:37

Immersed– Mark 16.16; Acts 2:38

Live Faithfully – Revelation 2.10; 1 Corinthians 15:58

By Which Ye Are Saved

In 1 Corinthians 15:1-2, Paul said the Corinthians could be saved by remembering what he had preached to them. But what did He preach to them? Faith only? Grace only? Christ only? The Bible speaks of these three but also many other things that save mankind. In this article we want to notice some things that save us.

We are saved by God. He desires all to be saved (1 Tim. 2:3-4) and has made that possible through the sacrifice of His son, Jesus (Jn. 3:16).

We are saved by Christ. Before and at His birth, angels declared He would save mankind from their sins (Mt.

1:21; Lk. 2:11). This He did by the cross. We are saved by grace. Paul wrote we are saved by grace through faith (Eph. 2:8). God has made His grace available to all (Ti. 2:11), we must only choose to take it.

We are saved by faith. Without it we cannot please God (Heb. 11:6). Without faith in Jesus as the Christ, we will die in our sins (Jn. 8:24).

We are saved by preaching. Paul wrote that people were saved by the preaching of the cross (1 Cor. 1:18, 21). In fact, if one refuses to hear that preaching, one will be lost (Rom. 10:13-16).

We are saved by words. The devout moral man Cornelius was good, but not saved. He was told to send for Peter and hear words that would save him (Act 11:14).

We are saved by the Gospel. Paul said it was God's power by which people are saved (Rom. 1:16). If we hear it, believe it, obey it, and continue in it, we can be saved by it (1 Cor. 15:1-2).

We are saved by repentance. When the Jews on Pentecost wanted to know what to do to be saved, they were told to repent (Act 2:38). Repentance demands a change from wrong to right (Mt. 21:28-29).

We are saved by confessing Christ (Mt. 10:32; Rom. 10:9-10; Act 8:37), by baptism (Mk. 16:16; Act 22:16; 1 Pet. 3:21), by the blood of Christ (Rom. 5:9), by self (Act 2:40; 1 Tim. 4:16), by hope (Rom. 8:24; Heb. 6:18-19), by works (Jas. 2:14-26), and by faithfulness (Rev. 2:10; 1 Cor. 15:58).

God has abundantly poured out His grace in offering us a path to salvation! But can you see that we are not saved by any one of these alone? Have you done the things by which ye can be saved?

- Phillip Stuckey

You're Invited To Our Fall Gospel Meeting

Come join us in hearing God's word proclaimed!

- Sunday, October 17, 2010 (Bible Class: 10 a.m. , Worship: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.)
- Monday, October 18 – Friday, October 22, 2010 (7:30 p.m.)

The evangelist will be Stan Adams from Pensacola, FL.