Introduction:

A. We are losing too many, especially young folks, to denominations.
   1. Attracted to the socially charged atmosphere of denominational programs.
   2. Attracted to the minimal expectations of church membership.
   3. Unawareness of the true nature of denominational doctrines.
   4. Untaught concerning the clear line between denominations and the N.T. church.

B. We plan to clearly contrast most common denominational doctrines and N.T. doctrine in series.
   1. First, we will notice some doctrines common to most denominations.
   2. Then, we will notice some doctrines more or less peculiar to specific denominations.

C. The first doctrine we will notice is the doctrine of “faith only.”

Discussion:

I. This Doctrine Is Typical of Most Protestant Denominations.
   A. Baptist: “Solely by faith”; Methodist: “Faith only ...”, etc.
   B. Few accept baptism as essential element in man’s salvation.

II. This Doctrine Contradicts Plain New Testament Teaching.
   A. Man is not justified by faith only (Jas. 2:14-26).
   B. Man is justified by a working faith (Gal. 5:6).
      1. Faith itself is work (John 6:28-29)
      2. Faith always tied to works of obedience (Heb. 11; Rom. 1:5; 16:26).

III. This Doctrine Makes Baptism a Mere “Outward Sign or an Inward Grace.”
   A. Done to show world have already been saved by faith (Denominational “confession” at bapt.)
   B. Perverts passages that link baptism to salvation.
      2. Mark 16:16 – “Does not baptized not” – Interpretation leaves on in limbo (Bus illustration)

IV. This Doctrine Stops Short of Making One a Child of God.
   A. Faith only gives people the right to become children of God (John 1:12).
   B. Faith must lead one to be baptized to become children of God (Gal. 3:26-27)

V. This Doctrine Leaves People in Their Sins Who Think They Are Coming to Christ.
   A. Many people die in their sins thinking they are forgiven.
   B. The sincerity of those to teach “faith only” does not change this fact.

Conclusion:

A. There is a difference between “saved by faith” and “saved by faith only.”
B. All of God’s plan of salvation is not found in one verse.
   1. Luke 24:47 mentions only repentance but salvation is not by repentance only.
   2. 1 Pet. 3:21 mentions only baptism but salvation is not by baptism only.
   3. John 3:16 mentions only believing (faith) but salvation is not by faith only.