

Denominational Doctrines

Part 1 - The Salvation by Faith Only Doctrine.

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.
 - 1. Acts 2:38 – Makes “for” mean “because of” rather than unto. (Cf. Matt. 26:28).
 - 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.