

March 1, 2020

Viewpoint from the **Valley Grove Church Of Christ**

Count Your Blessings And Make Them Count

By Joe R. Price

Ryan Newman was seconds away from winning the Daytona 500 before a catastrophic accident sent his race car careening off the wall and spinning in the air before being struck broadside by another car and skidding down the raceway in a fiery heap of metal. Thankfully, his injuries were not life threatening, and two days later he walked out of the hospital. This was not the first time Newman was involved in a serious crash at Daytona. In 2003 “his car flipped several times on the infield grass before coming to a full stop on its roof. He walked away without injuries from that wreck” (“Ryan Newman walks out of hospital days after horrific Daytona 500 crash,” Ryan Gaydos, foxnews.com).

Newman certainly has blessings to count, including the safety features of his race car and the medical care he received. (Obviously, that he did not lose his life heads that list.) We are thankful he survived, and wish him a full recovery.

Life’s sudden tragedies do not always have a pleasant ending. I got a call Monday telling that brother Jim Lee, gospel preacher in Ohio, suffered a massive stroke Sunday night in Nashville while traveling to Alabama to visit his son and family. With no possibility of treatment or reversal, brother Lee passed away Tuesday. Our prayers and sympathies are extended to his family as they look beyond this moment of loss to expectations of eternal glory.

These tragedies remind us to count our blessings and to make our blessings count. Mr. Newman now has a chance to bless others (Acts 20:35). Brother Lee made his blessings count as a devoted Christian, faithful husband, father, grandfather, and friend to many. By sowing to the Spirit he has God’s promise of reaping eternal life (Gal. 6:9).

Count your blessings, and make them count for good.

Visitors — We pray that you benefit spiritually from our worship together and hope to see you again.

Can Faith Alone Save Him?

By Michael R. Baggett

Near my home in central Alabama, there is a church sign which reads: “Faith Plus Nothing Equals Salvation.” I suppose this is a comforting thought and perhaps a lot more attractive to the community than telling the whole truth. Friends, the gospel is the power of God to salvation (Romans 1:16). When Paul writes about the gospel being that power, he is including everything required of the gospel to reach salvation. Jesus saves, but not by a passive faith. What does Jesus and his apostles say equals salvation? Read on, there is nothing to fear but being mistaken about salvation requirements. We can’t afford to be wrong!

Jesus Christ teaches, faith plus repentance equals salvation (John 3:16; Luke 13:3, 5). Jesus also teaches that faith or belief in Him plus repentance, plus confession of faith equals salvation (Matthew 10:32, 33). Jesus teaches that belief in Him, repentance, confession of faith and baptism equal salvation (Mark 16:15, 16). Jesus teaches belief in Him, repentance, confession of Him, baptism and faithfulness until death equals salvation (Mark 13:13; see also Revelation 2:10). I hope you can see that we must take all of this together, believe it and practice it. Which one can you subtract and still have salvation?

The apostles of Jesus Christ taught the same thing. Peter taught the crowd on Pentecost who asked what to do to be saved, after they were convinced Jesus is the Christ, “Repent and be baptized...” (Acts 2:36-38, 41). Paul the apostle says the only faith that profits is one that “works by love” (Galatians 5:6). These are not works of the Old Law, but works of obedience to the gospel requirements of Christ. Love is the motivator without which anything we do is without profit (see 1 Corinthians 13). Love for Christ should move us to obey all He has commanded. “If you love me keep my commandments” (John 14:15). What have we seen already that Christ has commanded?

James asks the question in James 2:14, “Can faith (alone) save him?” James explains in this text that faith without, or we could say faith minus works, is dead (James 2:17). Without obedient works, there is no proof of your faith (James 2:18). One who boasts of being saved by belief only is in the same company with demons who also believe, but tremble because they are lost (James 2:19). James also says that just as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so is faith without works dead also (James 2:26). This verse alone should be enough to show the need for an active or obedient faith; so, how is it religious organizations continue to tout faith only salvation?

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We must not add to nor subtract from the Bible (Revelation 22:18, 19).

What about you my friend, will you stand on your own two feet and believe the scriptures? Don't you believe the words of Jesus and His apostles?

Keep on studying the Bible because Jesus promises you can know the truth and the truth will set you free from sin (John 8:32).

The Reign Of The Righteous King

John Isaac Edwards

Psalm 72, which tells of the reign of the righteous king, points to Acts 2 when Jesus began His reign. Let's take a look.

He Shall Judge Thy People with Righteousness (v. 2). Isaiah prophesied, “. . .and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: But with righteousness shall he judge. . .” (Isaiah 11:3-4). Again it is written, “Behold, a king shall reign in righteousness. . .” (Isaiah 32:1). Paul preached, “. . .he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained. . .” (Acts 17:31).

In His Days Shall the Righteous Flourish; and Abundance of Peace (v. 7). Paul wrote the Romans, “For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous” (Romans 5:19). The Lord said, “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you...” (John 14:27) and “...in me ye might have peace. . .” (John 16:33). “. . .we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” (Romans 5:1).

He Shall Have Dominion from Sea to Sea, and unto the Ends of the Earth (v. 8). Zechariah prophesied of the coming King, “. . .and he shall speak peace unto the heathen: and his dominion shall be from sea even to sea, and from the river even to the ends of the earth” (Zechariah 9:10). The Lord told His apostles, “All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth” (Matthew 28:18) and “. . .ye shall be witnesses unto me. . .unto the uttermost part of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

All Nations Shall Serve Him (v. 11). In prophesying concerning the Lord's house, Isaiah said, “. . .all nations shall flow unto it” (Isaiah 2:2). The Lord commissioned His apostles, “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations. . .” (Matthew 28:19).

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He Shall Redeem Their Soul (v. 14). Redemption “is in Christ” (Rom. 3:24). “In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace” (Ephesians 1:7).

Men Shall Be Blessed in Him (v. 17). “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ” (Ephesians 1:3).

Have you submitted to King Jesus?

Bow down Your ear, O LORD, hear me; For I am poor and needy. Preserve my life, for I am holy; You are my God; Save Your servant who trusts in You! Be merciful to me, O Lord, For I cry to You all day long. Rejoice the soul of Your servant, For to You, O Lord, I lift up my soul. For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, And abundant in mercy to all those who call upon You. Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer; And attend to the voice of my supplications. In the day of my trouble I will call upon You, For You will answer me.

— *Psalm 86:1-7*

March Birthdays:

The 18th Amy Hisaw
The 25th Megan Morgan

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Sunday

Bible Study . . . 9:30 A.M.
Worship 10:30 A.M.
Worship 5:00 P.M.

Wednesday

Bible Study . . . 7:00 P.M.

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