

Personal/Small Group Sermon Study

Week of November 21, 2021, A.D.

What is Saving Faith?

(Note: For every question which appears in this study, always give the reasoning and/or the explanation for each of your answers.)

Read 1 John 3:21

1. The heart refers to the center of our mind, emotion, and will. Does your heart ever condemn you? If so, how and why? Is it a good experience if your heart condemns you? Does the heart of a believer feel the same condemnation as the heart of (a) non-believers? and/or (b) all other believers?
2. What does it mean to be “before God”? What does it mean “to have confidence before God”? Is being “before God” (a) a good/beneficial event, (b) a bad / detrimental event? and/or (c) a past, present, or future event?
3. Have you ever been before God? If so, please describe that experience. What does it feel like to be before God? Is “being before God” an experience that you want to have (a) more often? (b) less often? (c) never? or (d) always? What are the obstacles that are keeping you from having the amount of time before God that you have chosen in response to the previous question? What are you going to do to remove those obstacles? When and why?

Read 1 John 3:22

4. Does God want us to ask Him for things? Does God want to give to us the things for which we ask? Has God ever failed to give to you something that you have requested from Him? If so, (a) were you angry and/ or disappointed with God? (b) did you honestly express your true heart and emotions to God (whatever those emotions might have been)? and/ or (c) did you eventually come the conclusion that God’s answer has been working for your good and that God loves you?
5. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: “If you are angry with God, you should tell Him. He can take it. You will be glad you did. God will be glad, too.” P.S. God knows of your anger even if you do not tell him about it..
6. Why does God give to us commands which we are to obey? Who benefits the most when you obey the commands of God? Can you show true obedience to God if you do not know His commandments? Can God bless and reward you if you don’t choose to obey His commands? Do you love God if you do not learn and obey His commands?

7. Is it reasonable for a loving father to expect his children to want to please him and to do those things which the father asks them to do? Is it right for us to want to please a loving human father and yet, at the same time, to have less or no desire to please the loving heavenly Father who created us (and who sent His son to die on a cross for us)? Does your church family have the right to receive from God “anything we ask”?

Read 1 John 3:23

8. Is it optional for a born again child of God “to believe in the name of His Son, Jesus Christ”? What does that belief require of a person in order for that belief to prove itself to be genuine? In your opinion, what percentage of American church attenders are children of God? Is it proper for that opinion question to be asked of those persons who claim to be children of God?
9. Read John 13: 34-35. What makes this a “new command”? Is this the “command” to which John is referring in 1 John 3: 23? Do American Christians give a high priority to obeying this “new command”? Do American Christians show evidence of sincere obedience to this command? If so, please describe that evidence.

Read 1 John 3:24

10. What does it mean to “obey his commands”? What does it mean to “live in Him”? What does it mean for “Christ to live in them”? Is it essential for a person to understand and to meet the requirements of these questions in order to go to heaven?
11. According to John, should a person want to know for certain that they are “saved” and, therefore, going to heaven? Must all born again saved children of God be indwelt by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit?
12. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: “No human can earn his or her entrance into heaven by being good or by doing good works. Yet, every person who has been saved by God’s gracious gift of faith (which is made possible only by Christ’s death on the cross) will live their life in a way which is pleasing to God”

Consider: Many, if not most, Christians are offended at even the slightest suggestion that there is any relationship between “saving faith” and “good works”. Yet, you cannot be saved without believing in Christ; and, you cannot believe in Christ without obeying Him. “You think about that.” Amen.