**Is Salvation By Faith Only A Wholesome Doctrine?**

The Eleventh Article in the Articles of Religion of the Church of England says “Wherefore that we are justified by faith only is a most wholesome doctrine, and very full of comfort.” Is “salvation by faith only” a most wholesome doctrine? Not if it is different than the doctrine of Christ. II John 9 reads “Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.” So if “salvation by faith only” is not in the doctrine of Christ, if it is not taught by the Bible, then it is not a “wholesome doctrine;” instead it will cause us to be lost because we don’t have God.

So the question is - is “Salvation By Faith Only” taught by the Bible? We can tell from many passages that salvation is not by “faith only” …

For example, Mark 16:16a reads “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved.” Belief by itself is not enough, it takes submission to baptism also.

Heb 5:9 "And being made perfect, he (talking about Jesus) became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;" Faith alone is not enough; obedience is required by this verse in order to receive eternal salvation.

Matt 7:21 "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." It is not enough just to believe in the Lord; we must also do God’s will in order to go to heaven.

I Pet 1:22a “Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth.” If you want your soul purified, you are going to have to do more than belief the truth; you are also going to have to obey the truth.

Rev 22:14 “Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.” So have to believe and do God’s commandments in order to go to heaven.

I Pet 1:17 “Father … without respect of persons judgeth according to every man’s work.” So God judges people based upon their works, not just upon whether or not they have faith.

II Thess 1:7-9 “the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that **obey** not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power.” Notice that text says we must know (believe in) God and obey the gospel.

An example of some who believed but were not saved - John 12:42-43 “Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.”

The Eleventh Article in the Articles of Religion of the Church of England says “Wherefore that we are justified by faith only is a most wholesome doctrine, and very full of comfort.” That stands in stark contrast to James 2:24 which reads “Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.” Would you feel comfortable belonging to a church whose creed book contradicts the Bible is such a plain and direct way?