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SALVATION

If you are not a believer in Jesus Christ, or aren't sure and would like to become one, then you need to believe that Jesus Christ was and is the Son of God, that he was God who became a man, that he lived a sinless and perfect life, keeping the Law of God perfect in every way, that he kept faith perfectly, and that he was crucified on that cruel cross for your sins, mine and the entire world- he died for our sins! His death on the cross paid the penalty fully, one time for all sins that we have ever committed and that we will ever commit. He died; he went down into the bowels of the earth, even into Hell, and was raised from the dead on the third day in a resurrected, eternal body. He ascended back into heaven, was seated at the right hand of God, and is now Lord over heaven and earth. He is coming again to judge the world, to raise the dead, where he will give an eternal, resurrected, glorified body to everyone that has believed on him as their Lord and Savior, and to establish his kingdom one earth.

You come become a Christian right now as you read this, by personally placing your faith and trust in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior; believing that he is God's only begotten Son, that he died on the cross for you and that he was raised from the dead and is now seated in heaven at the right hand of God the Father. *"Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved.."* Acts 16:31a And when you do trust Christ, and Christ alone, as your Lord and Savior, then go to God the Father in heaven in prayer and tell him so. Tell him that you have believed on his Son, thank him for his Son, and thank him for forgiving your sins and saving you! *"That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord", and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."* Romans 10:9,10 *"For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."* Romans 10:13 *"Therefore, being justified by faith (declared righteous), we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."* Romans 5:1

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“Striking The Sails”

Forward Momentum – Conclusion

“*And if he shrinks back,*” Hebrews 10:37

F. Overview

This study is really a study on the necessity for faith in the Christian life. A nautical metaphor is used, not only because it is based upon the text, but because there are so many things involved in the Christian life that are brought out in it.

The **sails** refer to the believer exercising their faith on their voyage throughout this life. The **helm and rudder** refer to the countless decisions that we will have to make; decisions that always need to be positive toward the Lord, his Word and his will. The **compass** refers to our being continually oriented toward God and his grace. The **charts** refer to the teachings of God's Word so we can always be oriented to where we're at as we go through this life. The **hull** refers to the indestructibility of the new man.

The **high seas** refer to us being out in the satanically controlled world system. The **stormy seas** refer to the trials of life that we all will have to go through. The **waves** of the sea refer to us being inundated by grief, anger, fear, guilt, regret; the whole complex of the emotions. The **enemy** at sea refers to Satan's demons who attack our vessels. When faced with stormy seas, or engaging the enemy at sea, the Pastor in the church, as well as the believer in his own life, will have to make continuous decisions, sometimes moment by moment decisions, just to survive the storm or the attack of the enemy.

The **skipper** aboard ship, or Captain, also affectionately known by the crew as the *Old Man*, looks at: one, the individual priesthood of the believer; two, the husband as being the head of the house; he is the commanding officer (CO), his wife is next in line as the executive officer (XO). And three, the Pastor-Teacher of the local church, who has the position of the CO and is the authority over his own local church, and holds the Navy equivalent of Commander or Captain.

Children born into the home are to be under the authority of the chain of command. God, Christ, the man, and then the woman. Believers who join a local church come *on board* as crewmen who are under the authority of the Pastor of that church. Rebellion against authority and mutiny are not to be tolerated.

Each local church is as a naval vessel and each church, like their naval counterparts, have a specific function and assignment. Churches, like **ships**, are never to be operated or directed by committee. That is the Pastor's function and responsibility. But all churches and Pastors are under the supreme authority of Jesus Christ, the **Admiral** of the fleet.

G. The necessity of Bible Doctrine for faith.

It is vitally important for all believers to understand that if they're going to live by faith in this life, then they are going to have to have the sound, accurate, in depth teach of the Word of God. Programs, emotionalism, entertainment, formalism, ritualism, legalism, all the misleading things that are found in countless churches across the land will not and **can not build up our faith!**

And when we talk about the teaching of the Word of God, we are not talking about hearing the things that you want to hear, or the things that you are interested in, but the whole counsel teaching of the Word. Christ said that man is to live by every **doctrine** that proceeds from the mouth of God.

Who do you think you are to pick and choose what you want to listen to? It is God who directs his Pastors to teach you the things that **He** wants you to hear! Christians today are acting like bratty children. All they want is something sweet, not something nutritional. If you want wisdom on some matter, then you are to pray to God and he will provide you the doctrines that you need. James 1:5

It is vitally important for Christians to believe and realize that they need the teaching of the Word of God to develop faith in our souls, for faith comes through hearing the Word. *“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”* Romans 10:17 ἀρα η πιστις εξ ακοης η δε ακοη δια ρηματος θεου. The preposition *ek* tells us that *faith* comes **out of hearing the Word of God.**

Do you expect faith to be developed in your soul by dressing formally, or practicing some tabooism, or fingering beads, or jumping around on the floor, or being entertained, or by some drama or musical program, or by Dr. Slick and his dog and pony show, or any of the other things going on in Christianity today? The replacing of anything for the teaching of God's Word is **evil!** And for Christians to replace anything for the teaching of God's Word is evil as well!

We have to have the teaching of the Word of God to have faith! Period! Faith does not originate in the corruption of our flesh natures. It originates and proceeds out of the sound, accurate teaching of God's Word. Yet churches by the thousands are abandoning the Word of God for their programs, works, human good and religiosity.

Can they not see the importance of this statement in the Book of Revelation? Or do they brush it aside as unimportant as they do the rest of the Word of God. *“His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. “And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called **The Word of God.**”* Revelation 19: 12,13

Pastor Mike