

Lessons From Hebrews

Faith Only?

(He 11:30)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Afternoon,
 - a. Greeting...
2. Series of "Lessons From Hebrews."
 - a. We are looking now at some specific verses for topical study.
 - i. We have looked at how Hebrews proves "silence of the scriptures" doctrine.
 1. **He 7:14**
 - ii. Today we are going to look at how Hebrews proves the "faith only" doctrine to be false.
 1. **He 11:30** "By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days."¹
3. The faith only doctrine.
 - a. It has been around as a staple of modern denominationalism since the days of Martin Luther, early to mid 1500's.
 - i. He is usually the one whom most denominations look to, to say that baptism is not necessary for salvation and it is by faith alone.
 - ii. However Martin Luther did not himself believe that faith alone saved apart from baptism.
 1. "But our know-it-alls, the new spirit people, claim that faith alone saves and that human works and outward forms contribute nothing to this. We answer: It is of course true that nothing in us does it except faith, as we shall hear later. But these blind leaders of the blind refuse to see that faith must have something in which it believes, that is, something it clings to, something on which to plant its feet and into which to sink its roots. Thus faith clings to the water and believes Baptism to be something in which there is pure salvation and life, not through the water, as I have emphasized often enough, but because God's name is joined to it.... It follows from this that whoever rejects Baptism rejects God's word, faith, and the Christ who directs us to Baptism and binds us to it." (<http://goo.gl/jkbp1>)
 - b. Though it appears Luther didn't hold to baptism having no value or part in salvation others have.
 - i. It is this idea we are going to look at today.
4. With that in mind let us look at our lesson.

I. The Fall Of Jericho

- A. The first six days
 1. **Js 6:2-3** "And the LORD said to Joshua, "See, I have given Jericho into your hand, with its king and mighty men of valor. 3 You shall march around the city, all the men of war going around the city once. Thus shall you do for six days."

¹ All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted. If other translations are used this is not necessarily an endorsement of the translation.

Lessons From Hebrews

- B. The seventh day
 - 1. **Js 6:4-5** "...On the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets. 5 And when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, when you hear the sound of the trumpet, then all the people shall shout with a great shout, and the wall of the city will fall down flat, and the people shall go up, everyone straight before him."
- C. Jericho fell
 - 1. **Js 6:15-16, 20** "On the seventh day they rose early, at the dawn of day, and marched around the city in the same manner seven times. It was only on that day that they marched around the city seven times. 16 And at the seventh time, when the priests had blown the trumpets, Joshua said to the people, "Shout, for the LORD has given you the city...20 So the people shouted, and the trumpets were blown. As soon as the people heard the sound of the trumpet, the people shouted a great shout, and the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they captured the city."

II. Jericho's Fall Proves Faith Only Doctrine False

- A. Notice again what the Hebrew write wrote
 - 1. **He 11:30** "By faith the walls of Jericho fell down **after** they had been encircled for seven days." (emphasis mine)
- B. There is a key word in this verse that is of utmost importance
 - 1. That is the word "after."
 - 2. The Israelites would not have been faithful if...
 - i. They had circled only five days.
 - ii. They had circled seven times on all seven days.
 - 3. The Israelites were faithful because...
 - i. They complied with "all" of God's requirements.
- C. The same principle is found in salvation
 - 1. One cannot leave anything out and still be considered faithful.
 - 2. Notice concerning salvation...
 - i. God's blessing of salvation is offered.
 - a. **Ti 2:11; He 2:9**
 - ii. God's instructions are given by Him to obtain that salvation.
 - a. Study (**Ro 10:17**); Faith in Jesus (**Jn 3:16; 14:15**); Repentance (**Ac 17:30**); Confession of Jesus as Savior (**Mt 10:32; Ro 10:9-10**); & baptism for the forgiveness of sins (**Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**).
 - iii. Man's faith then is seen when he fully complies with God's instructions.
 - a. **He 11:6; Jn 8:24**

CONCLUSION

- 1.