

## Brief on Faith and works are necessary for salvation<sup>1</sup>

By Richard Joseph Michael Ibranyi

“For if thou confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in thy heart that God hath raised him up from the dead, thou shalt be saved; for with the heart we believe unto justice, but with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith: Whosoever believeth in him shall not be confounded.” (Rom. 10:9-11)

**Rom. 10:9. Confess...the Lord Jesus...and be saved:** There are two kinds of belief in God: A faithful belief and a bare belief:

1) A faithful belief is when a person not only believes that God exists but also believes in all that God does, says, and commands and thus has faith and trust in the true God. This is the kind of belief that saves men, a faithful belief in which they believe not only that Jesus Christ exists and is God, man, and Messiah, but also believe in all that Jesus does, says, and commands.

2) A bare belief is when a person believes that God exists but does not believe in all that God does, says, and commands and thus does not have a faithful belief in God. This is the kind of belief the devils have in God. They believe that God exists and that he is God. “Thou believest that there is one God. Thou dost well: the devils also believe and tremble.” (Ja. 2:19) But the devils do not believe in all that God does, says, and commands and thus do not have faith and trust in God.

This is the kind of faith that Protestants and other baptized non-Catholics have in Jesus Christ, that is, a bare belief. They believe that Jesus Christ exists but do not believe in all the things that Jesus does, says, and commands and thus do not have true faith or trust in the true Jesus Christ. This is evident in every heresy or schism that they hold, in this case their heresy that men can be saved by a bare belief or bare faith in Jesus without also obeying all of God’s commandments and doing other good works. Their bad will and heretical misinterpretation of St. Paul’s teachings in Rom. 10:9, 13; Eph. 2:8-9, Heb. 10:38, and elsewhere is manifest by all the Bible verses they ignore in which Jesus Christ and his disciples teach that men are not saved by faith alone but also by obedience to all of God’s commandments and doing other good works. For example, Jesus says,

“If thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.” (Mt. 19:17)

Conversely, if a man does not keep all of God’s commandments, he cannot enter into life and thus cannot be saved.

Jesus says that not all that call upon his name and believe in him (and thus even Catholics) will be saved:

“Not every one that saith to me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doth the will of my Father who is in heaven, he shall enter into the kingdom of heaven. Many will say to me in that day: Lord, Lord, have not we prophesied in thy name, and cast out devils in thy name, and done many miracles in thy name? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you. Depart from me, you that work iniquity.” (Mt. 7:21-23)

Therefore all those who died professing belief in Jesus but did not keep one or more of his commandments and thus died in mortal sin, in iniquity, were not saved. Hence St. Paul teaches,

“For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified.” (Rom. 2:13)

Therefore men who hear the law and thus are believers are not justified if they do not do the law and thus do not obey the law. Addressing men who profess belief in Jesus, St. Paul lists some sins that will send them to hell:

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<sup>1</sup> RJMI’s Briefs are Long Commentaries contained in the end of *The Catholic Bible*, revised by RJMI.

“Know you not that the unjust shall not possess the kingdom of God? Do not err: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor the effeminate, nor liars with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor railers, nor extortioners shall possess the kingdom of God.” (1 Cor. 6:9-10)

Hence even Catholics who die as drunkards or in any other mortal sin are not saved. (See Gal. 5:19-20, Eph. 5:5, and Apoc. 21:8.)

St. Paul includes himself among those who could be cast off from God and go to hell if he does not keep all of God’s commandments, in this case God’s commandment that men must do penance to be saved:

“But I chastise my body and bring it into subjection lest perhaps when I have preached to others, I myself should become a castaway.” (1 Cor. 9:27)

This is why St. Paul says,

“Wherefore, my dearly beloved [Catholics],...with fear and trembling, work out your salvation.” (Phili. 2:12)

If all Catholics could be saved simply by believing in Jesus and thus could be saved by faith alone, then why should they work out their salvation—let alone work it out with fear and trembling!

Hence St. Paul teaches that a man could even have true faith in Jesus Christ and thus be Catholic and not be saved if he does not have true charity:

“And if I should have prophecy and should know all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I should have all faith so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.” (1 Cor. 13:2)

Therefore St. Paul teaches that even a Catholic who has true faith in Jesus but mortally breaks one of God’s commandments does not have charity and thus is nothing and hence cannot be saved in such a condition.

And St. John teaches that true charity is not only feeding the poor but also obeying all of God’s commandments:

“For this is the charity of God, that we keep his commandments. (1 Jn. 5:3) And this is charity, that we walk according to his commandments. (2 Jn. 1:6)”

And that is why St. James teaches that

“Faith without works is dead.” (Ja. 2:26)

And Jesus teaches,

“Behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me to render to every man according to his works.” (Apoc. 22:12)

*For the glory of God; in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Michael, St. Joseph, Ss. Joachim and Anne, St. John the Baptist, the other angels and saints; and for the salvation of men*

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