

# FIVE FACTS CONCERNING SAVING FAITH

---

## 1 CORINTHIANS 2:1-5• TV181A

A television broadcast sermon delivered  
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup>, 1982

By  
**HENRY T. MAHAN**

---

Transcribed, edited and published  
JANUARY 4<sup>TH</sup>, 2013

**HENRY T. MAHAN TAPE LIBRARY**  
Zebulon Baptist Church  
6088 Zebulon Highway  
Pikeville, KY 41501

---

### **1 Corinthians 2:1-5**

*“And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man’s wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.”*

I want you to open your Bible with me today to the book of **1 Corinthians**. I will be speaking from **1 Corinthians chapter 2: verses 1 through 5**.

Here is our subject; it is a very important subject. I believe that you will be enlightened and helped if you listen carefully to the message. I am going to speak to you on this subject; **“FIVE FACTS ABOUT SAVING FAITH.”**

If you would like to follow in your Bible, the Scripture will be taken from **1 Corinthians chapter 2:1**.

## FIVE FACTS CONCERNING SAVING FAITH

1 CORINTHIANS 2:1-5 • HENRY T. MAHAN

---

Now my friends, the way of salvation, God's redemptive plan is revealed in the Bible. It is revealed in the plainest and clearest terms.

First of all: The way of salvation, the way of redemption is revealed in the Bible in promise.

Right after Adam fell in **Genesis chapter 3, verse 15**; God said, "*the seed of woman*;" there is only one who has ever been "*the seed of woman*," that is the virgin born Son of God, Jesus Christ.

God clearly promises to fallen Adam and Eve that "*the seed of woman would bruise the serpent's head*," and destroy the power of Satan. That is the first promise of redemption and how God redeemed sinners to be found in God's Word.

Then, you go right on through the Scriptures; "*to him give all the prophets witness*." But, stop at the book of **Isaiah Chapter 7:14**. God says; "*Therefore, the Lord himself shall give you a sign; behold, a virgin shall conceive and bare a son and thou shall call his name, (the name of that Son, and born of the virgin), Emmanuel, who is God with us*."

There is another promise of God's redeeming Son coming into this world by way of the virgin's womb and bearing our sins in His body. That is the promise of redemption.

Then, in **Isaiah 9:6**, "*For unto us a child is born. Unto us a son is given and the government shall be upon his shoulders and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, and the Prince of Peace*."

In other words, all the way through the Old Testament God promises a Redeemer, God promises a Saviour, God promises the Messiah, He promises the Christ. In promise, redemption's plan is clearly set forth in the Old Testament.

Not only in promise, but redemption's plan is set forth in picture in how God saves sinners. When God delivered Israel out of Egypt, He told Moses to have the people of Israel slay a lamb and put the blood of that lamb on the lintel and the two side posts.

God said, "*When I see the blood I will pass over you*." Israel kept that Passover every year until Jesus Christ came of whom the prophet said, "*He is our Passover*." There's a clear picture of redemption by the shedding of Christ's blood.

Then, the manna from heaven; Christ said, "*I am the bread of heaven*."

Then, there was the smitten rock. When Moses smote the rock and water came forth from the rock and satisfied the people's need, that is Christ. The Scriptures says, "*He is that rock*," that rock that followed them in the wilderness is Christ.

When Moses lifted up the brazen serpent and the people who had been bitten by the fiery serpents looked and they lived.

## FIVE FACTS CONCERNING SAVING FAITH

1 CORINTHIANS 2:1-5 • HENRY T. MAHAN

---

Christ said, *“As Moses lifted up that serpent, even so must the son of man be lifted up that whosoever believeth on him should not perish but have everlasting life.”*

Then, there was the tabernacle which they erected in the wilderness with its priesthood, with its sacrifices, with its mercy seat, with its sin offering, with its atonement, with its table of showbread, with its candlesticks, with its incense; all of these things are pictures of Christ bearing our sins.

So, I am saying this to you; all the way through the Bible we have God’s redemptive plan set forth in the clearest terms, in promise, in prophecy and in picture. Then, in the New Testament, He is set forth in person.

Paul said in **Galatians 4**: *“In the fullness of time God sent forth his son, made of a woman, made under the law to redeem them that were born under the law.”*

Paul, when speaking to the Corinthians said; *“Brethren, I declare unto you the gospel, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures. He was buried and rose again the third day according to the scriptures.”*

Peter said, *“We are not redeemed with corruptible things such as silver and gold; (you don’t buy redemption, you don’t earn redemption) we are redeemed with the precious blood of Jesus Christ as a lamb without blemish and without spot.”*

The way is clear; it is clear in promise, it is clear in prophecy, it is clear in picture and in the New Testament, it is clear in person. Christ said, *“I am come that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly.”*

The apostle Paul said; *“This is a faithful saying and it is worthy of acceptation (by all men) that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners of whom I am chief.”*

One of the clearest announcements of the Gospel that can be found anywhere in the Word of God is found in **Isaiah 53** when the prophet of God, hundreds of years before Christ died, said; *“he was wounded for our transgressions. He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was laid upon him. By his stripes we are healed.”*

*“All we like sheep have gone astray. We have turned everyone to his own way and the Lord hath laid on him, (on whom, the woman’s seed, on whom, the virgin’s son, on whom, the promised Messiah, on whom, the Passover Lamb, on whom, the rock of the wilderness, on whom, Jesus Christ); he hath laid on him our iniquity.”*

There you have it! Redemption’s plan is clearly and plainly declared in God’s Word. Yet, listen to me, this is true and you know it; there is much error and evil spoken about the way of redemption.

## FIVE FACTS CONCERNING SAVING FAITH

1 CORINTHIANS 2:1-5 • HENRY T. MAHAN

---

We put it in the church; we put it in the water. We put it in mourner's benches and we put it in sacraments. We put it in laws and we put it in doctrine. We put it in works and we put it in morality.

We put it everywhere in the world but where God put it. He put redemption in the hands of His Son. He called him *"the surety of the everlasting covenant."* He called His blood, *"the blood of the everlasting covenant."*

Even men, who claim to believe on Christ, even men who claim to be the friends of Christ, sometimes confuse their hearers on how God saves a sinner. That is what prompted Paul to write to the church of Galatia and say, *"I marvel; (I am amazed, I am astounded) that you are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel."*

Here was a church in Galatia where Paul himself had ministered, in fact, he founded the church and preached there for months, and months. He left there and was cast into prison in Rome.

It wasn't long until he had to write this letter called, "The Letter to the Galatians" and say to them, *"I am astounded. I am amazed that I haven't been gone but such a short time and here you are talking about salvation being in circumcision, salvation being in Sabbath Days, salvation being in Holy Days, and salvation being in everything but where it is; it is in Jesus Christ."*

That is where it is and no place else. God says that and it is clearly set forth in the Word of God. *"There's none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved. Other foundation can no man lay than that which is laid, Jesus Christ the Lord."*

He said, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man cometh to the Father but by me."* John wrote in **1 John 5**: *"This is the record: God hath given us eternal life and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son of God hath life and he that hath not the Son of God shall never see life."*

Now, can anything be plainer? If words mean anything at all salvation is in Christ. He said, *"I am the door. By me, if any man enter in, he shall be saved and go in and out in and find pasture."*

My friends; you can ask a dozen people tomorrow, ask a dozen people, "how does God save a lost sinner?" Ask a dozen people that tomorrow; "how is a son of Adam; ask them this question; "how is a son of Adam redeemed from sin, forgiven of his iniquities and *"translated into the kingdom of God's dear son?"*

Ask them; you will likely get a dozen different answers, all of them wrong. The problem is not with the Scriptures, the Scriptures are clear, the Scriptures are plain; *"let God be true and every man a liar."*

The problem is not with the Scriptures, the problem is with men. Paul tells us why in **2 Corinthians 4**; here is one reason:

## FIVE FACTS CONCERNING SAVING FAITH

1 CORINTHIANS 2:1-5 • HENRY T. MAHAN

---

First of all: He says, *“If our gospel be hid it is hid to them that are lost in whom the god of this world hath blinded their minds lest the glorious light of the gospel of God should shine in unto them.”*

They are blinded. Men who do not see do not understand. Not only that, but in **1 Corinthians 2:14** Paul wrote; *“The natural man receiveth not the things of God; they are foolishness to him, (they are sheer nonsense), neither can he know them; they are spiritually understood.”*

Our Lord said to the religious people of his day; *“I have come in my Father’s name and you receive me not. If another come in his own name, (bearing his own message, seeking his own glory, promoting his own program), him you will receive.”*

Isn’t that sad, isn’t that tragic? But, that is the twisted, perverted, depraved, unspiritual mind of natural men. In **John 5:39** our Lord looked at the Pharisees; these were men who studied and taught the Scriptures, who ruled in the synagogues.

He said, *“You search the scriptures for in them you think you have life but they are they which testify of me and you will not come to me that you might have life.”*

Yes, the Scriptures plainly, in promise, in prophecy, in picture, and person, sets forth God’s way of redemption. Yet, there is no truth against which more error and more evil has been promoted than against the Gospel of Jesus Christ God’s Son.

We say, “But, I am prepared to allow men to preach what they choose to preach. I am prepared to allow men to believe what they choose to believe.” That is what you call “freedom of religion.”

I am saying this; for those who listen to this program, for those who tune in to this telecast; I intend to set forth in no uncertain terms, in the clearest, possible way, the Gospel of God’s free grace in Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.

I want to use Paul’s words in **1 Corinthians 2**; will you look now at the text to set forth how I feel about this issue? Listen, we seek the favor of God, not the favor of men. We are not here to please men. The apostle Paul said, *“If I please men I am not the servant of Christ.”*

*“We preach not ourselves, we preach Jesus Christ.”* He said here in **1 Corinthians 2:1**; listen to it: *“And I brethren, when I came to you, I came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God;”* that testimony is the Gospel of God. That is what he is talking about.

He said, *“For I determined not to know anything among you, (not anything), except Jesus Christ and him crucified. I was with you in much weakness (human weakness, infirmities, and afflictions) in much fear, in much trembling.”*

*“And my speech and my preaching was not enticing words of man’s wisdom (logic, argument, and debate) but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power; that your faith should not stand in the*

## FIVE FACTS CONCERNING SAVING FAITH

1 CORINTHIANS 2:1-5 • HENRY T. MAHAN

---

*wisdom of men, (in the logic of men, in the traditions of men) but that your faith should stand in Christ who is the power of God.*"

What is Paul saying there?

First of all: He tells us how he preached. He said, *"I came not with excellency of speech. I came not with words of man's wisdom."* He said, "I came with simplicity," (not philosophy and human logic). We are not here to entertain. Paul is saying, "we come to you in the deepest humility, knowing that our gifts are borrowed, we know what God taught us, God gave us what we preach, and God almighty inspires us to preach."

He said, *"I come to you in fear,"* not in fear of men, in weakness and much trembling, but with total dependence on the Spirit of God."

Secondly: What do we preach?

We have one message. We play a one-string fiddle. We preach Christ; He is our message. We preach not ourselves or our thoughts. *"Our thoughts are not God's thoughts."* We preach not our deeds, not our programs; we preach Christ. Christ is our message. He is our message.

*"We preach Christ and him crucified."* Paul said to these philosophers of Corinth: *"I am determined (not to debate with you or to argue with you) not to know nothing among you save Jesus Christ and him crucified."*

Thirdly: Well, why do we preach this Gospel?

I will tell you why, he said; *"that your faith* (is going to stand somewhere; it is going to be in someone. Faith has to have an object), *should not stand in the wisdom of men* (or the logic of men or the tradition of men), *that your faith* (might have as its object, Jesus Christ), *should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God."*

Paul summed that whole thing up in **Philippians 3**; he said this, *"Brethren; rejoice in the Lord. To write, (and to preach and to teach to you) the same things (over and over again), to me it is not grievous* (it's not tiresome, it's not tiresome at all) *but for you it is safe."*

I have one message and it is Christ and Him crucified. That is not tiresome at all; for you it is profitable. Paul said, *"beware of dogs* (you beware of false preachers)." He said, *"We are the true circumcision."* We are true Israel which bare three characteristics:

*"We worship God in the spirit."* We worship God not in uniforms or burning candles. We worship God not with visual aids, statues, and pictures; *"we worship God in the spirit."*

Isn't that what Christ said to the Samaritan woman? *"They that worship God worship him in spirit and in truth, (not in form or ceremony), but in spirit and in truth. They that worship God worship him in spirit and in truth for such the father seeketh to worship him."*

## FIVE FACTS CONCERNING SAVING FAITH

1 CORINTHIANS 2:1-5 • HENRY T. MAHAN

---

Paul said, *“We are the true circumcision. We worship God in spirit and truth.”* We rejoice in Jesus Christ, not in ourselves, not in our accomplishments, not in our heritage. We rejoice in Jesus Christ.

He is our righteousness. He is our redemption. He is our sanctification. He is our wisdom. He is our holiness. He is our acceptance. He is everything and we rejoice in Him. *“We have no confidence in the flesh,”* yours, mine, or anybody else’s. Our confidence is in Christ.

Do you get that? We are not here to please men; we are here to preach Christ. Now let me give five facts concerning saving faith. This will help you if you listen to them and listen carefully:

First of all: What is the object of saving faith?

I said this a moment ago; faith must have an object, it has to have an object. Faith has to believe someone. Faith has to believe in something. Well, the sole object of saving faith is a person. It is not a doctrine or a creed, it is a person and that person is Jesus Christ.

Listen to the Scripture: *“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved. He that believeth on the son hath life; he that believeth not the son shall not see life.”*

**John 3:14** says, *“As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness even so must the son of man be lifted up that whosoever believeth on him;”* Christ is the object of faith.

I know that salvation is the work of the Trinity. I know the Father purposed to save. I know that the Son purchased our redemption. I know that the Holy Spirit applies that redemption. Christ is the object of faith. We are saved because we believe Christ.

I know that salvation is a new birth. I know that salvation is an experience of grace. I know that salvation is a new creature, but it is Christ *“who loved us and gave himself for us.”* It is Christ who redeemed us and He alone is our object of faith.

I know that salvation produces a new creature. I know that love, grace, and godliness, produce prayer, praise, and works of love. None of these things can save a man. I must not look to my prayers. I must not even have faith in my faith. Christ is the object of faith.

I ask you today: *“What think ye of Christ? Whose son is he?”* Well, you say, “preacher; let me tell you about my experience.” I’d rather you wouldn’t. Tell me about your Saviour. That’s how you are saved, not by your experience. You are saved by *“him who loved you and gave himself for you.”*

But preacher, “Let me tell you about my works. Let me tell you about how long I have been a deacon, how long I have been a Sunday school teacher, or how long I have been singing in the choir.”

## FIVE FACTS CONCERNING SAVING FAITH

1 CORINTHIANS 2:1-5 • HENRY T. MAHAN

---

No, I'd rather you wouldn't; tell me about your Lord. Do you have a High Priest? Do you have a Mediator? Do you have a sin-offering? Do you have a sacrifice? Where is the Lamb?

"Well, preacher; let me tell you about my church. Let me tell you what we are doing down at the church. We have a school and we have a ball team. We have this kind of program and that kind of program. Let me tell you about our church." I'd rather you wouldn't.

I'd rather you tell me about your Substitute. I'd rather you would tell me about your sin-offering. I'd rather you tell me about your Saviour.

You see; you have a sin problem. You have a life to live, a death to die, and a judgment to face and an eternity to spend. You have a God to meet out yonder.

Your ball game is not going to help you and your church is not going to help you. You need a sin-offering. You need the blood that cleanses us from all sin. You need the blood "*that maketh atonement for the soul.*" You need the blood that sanctifies. That is what you need.

The hymn writer said:

**"My faith has found a resting place (an object)**

**Not in device or creed**

**I trust the ever-living one**

**His wounds for me shall plead.**

**Enough for me that Jesus saves**

**That ends all my fear and doubt**

**A sinful soul, I came to him**

**He will never cast me out,**

**I need no other argument**

**I need no other plea**

**It is enough that Jesus died**

**And that He died for me."**

I didn't come to the church or to the front; I came to Christ, nor to a priest, nor to a preacher, nor to a high-pressure evangelist, nor to a decision, I came to Christ, He is the object of faith.

Secondly: The source of saving faith.

Saving faith is something that no one understands except the man who possesses it. I guarantee you that. Saving faith is not something that can be defined for a natural man; it's impossible. Do you know why?

First of all: Saving faith is born of need; that is where it starts; it is born of need

## FIVE FACTS CONCERNING SAVING FAITH

1 CORINTHIANS 2:1-5 • HENRY T. MAHAN

---

A man will never be saved until he is lost. A man will never be clothed until he is stripped. A man will never be made alive until he is slain; that's right! Our Lord Jesus Christ said it in these words; *"the well do not need a doctor."*

They said to the disciples; *"Why does your Master eat with publicans and sinners?"* Our Lord knew what they were saying. He said, *"The well do not need a doctor but they that are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance. You go learn what that means."*

That is what I am saying; I am saying that faith is born of need. The woman who reached out and touched His garment had a need. The leper who fell down and worshipped said, *"Lord; if you will, you can make me clean,"* he had a need.

The publican in the temple who cried, *"God be merciful to me a sinner"* had a need. The thief on the cross who cried, *"Lord remember me;"* had a need.

When you have a need you will look to Christ. When you have a need that no one can meet, you will look to Christ. When you have a need, only Christ can meet, you will look to Christ.

**"I came to Jesus as I was  
Weary, and worn, and sad  
I found in Him  
A resting place  
And He's made me glad."**

Saving faith is the gift of God. It is the work of God; *"it is given unto you not only to believe on him but to suffer for his sake."* He said, *"Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power."* He said, *"For by grace are you saved through faith and that's not of yourselves, it is the gift of God."*

It is the Spirit of God who convinces a man of sin. It is the spirit of God who reveals Christ. It is the Spirit of God who leads men to faith. *"Faith is the gift of God."* That is the source of faith, need and grace.

Then, the foundation of saving faith: now listen to me; here is the importance of the Word of God; *"faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God."* True saving faith, (are you with me), has no other foundation than the Word of God.

Feelings, emotions, and human thoughts, they change, they fail, and they deceive. But, *"the Word of God endureth forever."* He says, *"All flesh is grass (and everything connected with the flesh is grass), and the glory of man is as the flower of the field. The grass withereth and the flower fadeth, but the Word of God endureth forever."*

There's only one solid-footer for your foundation; there is only one place for your feet. There is only one foundation for your faith and God said it and that settles it.

## FIVE FACTS CONCERNING SAVING FAITH

1 CORINTHIANS 2:1-5 • HENRY T. MAHAN

---

How do you know that God Almighty will show mercy? His Word says so. How do you know that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners? His Word says so. How do you know that Jesus Christ is the way of life? His Word says so.

How do you know that you will be accepted of God if you believe on Christ? His Word says so. How do you know that He is "*the only Mediator between God and men?*" His Word says so. "*There is no other foundation;*" God said it, God declared it, and you believe his Word.

What's the result of saving faith? Well, our sins are forgiven. He said, "*Thy sins be forgiven. Though they be red like crimson, they shall be white as wool.*" We have peace with God; "*therefore, being justified by faith, we have peace with God.*"

"*There is no judgment to them who are in Christ Jesus.*" We have a perfect righteousness. We are sons of God; "*to as many as received him, to them gave he the right to become sons of God.*" We have eternal life.

Lastly: The evidence of saving faith

In **1 John 5:10** the Scripture says, "*He that believeth on the son hath the witness in himself.*" He has the witness in himself. What is this witness?

You might say, "Preacher; do you feel saved?" Well, in a sense. "Do you experience salvation?" Well, in a sense, but there is that witness I have in myself. What is that witness?

First of all: It is the witness of His Spirit, the presence of His Spirit.

"*He that hath not the Spirit of God hath not Christ.*" Everyone who is saved, the Spirit of God literally and actually dwells in that person. That's right! He said, "*Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.*" The Spirit of God dwells in you. He will lead you into all truth; He will guide you into truth. He will be your teacher, your counselor, your comforter and your guide.

Secondly: It is the witness of his Word

"*Thy Word have I hid in my heart.*" His Word is our hope. We believe his Word.

Thirdly: It is the witness of a new life

"*We know that we have passed from death unto life because we love the brethren.*"

There is the witness of the Spirit, the witness of the Word, and the witness of that inner knowledge and experience of the grace of God being productive in our own lives!