

# WORDS OF TRUTH

*A Weekly Bulletin for the Sunrise Acres church of Christ*

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<http://www.wordsoftruth.net>

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## *Sunrise Acres*

### CHURCH OF CHRIST

Meeting at:  
8625 Robert Drive  
El Paso, TX 79904

915-525-5794

### OUR MEETING TIMES:

Sunday Bible Class: 9:45 AM  
Sunday Worship: 10:55 AM

### Are You Visiting With Us?

If you are visiting with us, we want to welcome you to the Lord's church (Matthew 16:18 and Colossians 1:18). Our goal is to simply get to Heaven and to help you do the same. We use the Bible as our standard to govern what we do in our work and worship for the Lord (Colossians 3:17, II Timothy 1:13, II Timothy 3:16-17, and I Peter 4:11).

We welcome your questions and would love the opportunity to study further with you. Luke recorded a fascinating statement we all need to consider: *"Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved? And he said unto them, strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able"* (Luke 13:23-24). We invite you to join us in being one of the few that are saved!

### Just Changing One Word

By: *Brian A. Yeager*

How important is it to have no changes to what God has said to mankind? Our Lord says that it is rather significant to our salvation. Consider the following from both the Old and New Covenants: *"Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you... What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it... Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar... For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book"* (Deuteronomy 4:2, Deuteronomy 12:32, Proverbs 30:5-6, and Revelation 22:18-19).

Above we can see clearly that our Lord does not want any changes to His word. The true word of God contains the power of salvation (John 6:63, Romans 1:16, II Timothy 3:15-17, and I Peter 1:22-25). When twisted, these words will cause destruction (II Peter 3:16-17).

The work of Satan is to corrupt our minds so that we do not see the simplicity that is in Christ (II Corinthians 11:3). Consider, God warned Adam saying: *"But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die"* (Genesis 2:17). How did Satan twist this truth? Satan added one word to God's to change the whole warning. Notice: *"And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall **not** surely die"* (Genesis 3:4). The word Satan added was "not". Isn't it amazing how such a small word can change truth into error? What does that show us? One word added or removed from what God says can cause destruction.

## Just One Word Can Change The Truth Into A Lie

One of the words we often see added to the Scriptures is the word “only”. The Scriptures teach that we are saved by faith (I Peter 1:9). However, many add the word “alone” to this point of truth. Notice: “Jesus Christ died for our sins so that we might gain eternal life. It is through Faith Alone that we are forgiven. It is not through anything we do, but is a gift of God” (<http://www.faith-alone.com/theo.html>). People often pervert Romans 3:28, Romans 5:1, Ephesians 2:8-9, and other passages to argue the “faith alone” doctrine. Sadly, they have not searched their Bibles very well. The only time we see the words “faith” and “alone” in the same verse actually denies the doctrine people use the phrase to teach. Notice what God says about “faith alone”: “*Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone*” (James 2:17).

We also see the phrase “faith only” tossed around often. For example: “We are accounted righteous before God, only for the merit of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ by faith, and not for our own works or deservings. **Wherefore that we are justified by faith only** is a most wholesome doctrine, and very full of comfort; as more largely is expressed in the Homily of Justification” (Thirty-nine Articles of Religion; [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thirty-Nine\\_Articles](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thirty-Nine_Articles)). What do you think we would find if we searched the Bible to see this phrase? We do not find that we are saved by “faith only”. We find the exact opposite in the ONLY verse in which this phrase appears in all of inspiration: “*Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only*” (James 2:24).

Salvation by “grace alone” or “grace only” ([http://www.the-highway.com/grace\\_Pilgrim.html](http://www.the-highway.com/grace_Pilgrim.html)) is a popular false doctrine as well. The truth is, we are saved by grace (Acts 15:11 and Ephesians 2:5). However, the phrase “grace alone” or “grace only” does not appear anywhere in the Scriptures. The truth is, we are saved by more than grace according to the Scriptures (Mark 13:13, Mark 16:15-16, John 5:34, John 10:9, Acts 2:21, Acts 2:47, Acts 4:10-12, Romans 1:16, Romans 8:24, Romans 10:10, I Corinthians 1:18, I Corinthians 5:4-5, I Corinthians 15:1-2, II Corinthians 7:10, and I Peter 3:20-21).

Bible perversions like the Revised Standard Version have changed vital terms to pervert God’s word. For example, this perversion of God’s word removes the term “virgin” from Isaiah 7:14 and has “young woman” instead. This is to distract from God’s plan to have Jesus born of a virgin, as the prophesy was truly intended to read and was fulfilled as such (Matthew 1:18-25). Slight changes such as the term “fornication” translated as “sexual immorality” in the New King James Version (Matthew 5:32; 19:9) have led some to teach various errors on divorce and remarriage (including pornography as terms for “scriptural divorce”). Brethren, these slight changes are perversions of what God has really said and very well can lead to souls being lost. However, it is not just changed verses that add words, but implied ideologies as well.

### Is Baptism or the Five Steps An “Only”?

Sometimes it seems our brethren have taken an implied salvation by baptism only view. Instead of an emphasis on all that God has said (Joshua 1:6-8 and James 2:10), some make their emphasis on baptism. “Invitations” stress “five steps” to salvation but nothing for continued faithfulness (Colossians 1:23). Brethren, let us be sure that we do not add an idea of “only” to any subject of God’s will!

### Conclusion

It is too easy to become careless and pervert God’s word. We must be diligent in assuring that we rightly divide the word of God (II Timothy 2:14-18). It is easy to see the errors of others, but let’s be sure we start with our faces in the mirror rather than someone else’s face. Changing one word or point of God’s word is just as damning to your soul as it is to the soul of a denominationalist (Galatians 1:6-12).

**What must one do to be saved (Acts 2:37)?** Hear and believe the Gospel (Mark 16:15-16 & Romans 10:17), repent of their sins (Acts 3:19), confess Christ (Acts 8:37), and be baptized (immersed) for the remission of sins into the church of Christ (Acts 2:38-41; 47, I Corinthians 12:12-13, and Romans 6:1-6; 16:16). One must then remain faithful (Colossians 1:23).