

## **Introduction**

1. The next question we seek to answer is, “does the church teach salvation by faith alone?”
  - a. To be more precise, we want to know does the New Testament teach salvation by faith alone?

## **I. Why Do We Need Salvation?**

1. We need salvation to deliver us from the wrath of God ([Rm. 1:18](#); cf. [Rm. 2:8-9](#)).
  - a. We must remember that God is both good and severe depending on our behavior toward Him ([Rm. 11:20-22](#)).
  - b. God judges in accordance with truth and righteousness ([Rm. 2:2, 5](#)).
  - c. This is why Paul considered himself a debtor to preach the gospel ([Rm. 1:14-15](#)).
2. We need salvation to deliver us from death ([Rm. 1:32](#)).
  - a. The wages of sin is death ([Rm. 6:23](#)).
3. We need salvation because of the vengeance of God ([Rm. 3:5-6](#)).
  - a. Vengeance belongs to God ([Rm. 12:19](#)).
4. We need salvation because of sin ([Rm. 3:23](#)).
  - a. This has been man’s problem from [Genesis 3](#) forward.
  - b. God always had a solution ([Gen. 3:15](#); [Rev. 13:8](#); cf. [Eph. 3:9-11](#)).

## **II. Does Anything Alone Save Us?**

1. This will be answered with a simple definition of the word “alone” and then some basic math.
  - a. Alone is defined in its adverb form, “solely, exclusively” or “without aid or support” (Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary).
  - b. We are then looking for something exclusively without the aid or support of anything else if that something alone saves us.
  - c. To put it mathematically, whatever one thing saves us plus nothing else must equal salvation.
  - d. If we can find more than one thing that has a role in our salvation then we know that there is not one thing exclusively that does so.
2. The gospel is necessary for salvation ([Rm. 1:16-17](#)).
3. Hearing the gospel is necessary for salvation ([Rm. 10:13-15](#)).
4. Belief (verb form) and faith (noun form) are necessary for salvation ([Rm. 1:16-17](#)).
5. The goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering of God which leads to our repentance are necessary for salvation ([Rm. 2:4](#)).
6. Patient continuance in well doing and obedience of the truth are necessary for salvation ([Rm. 2:7-11](#)).
7. Grace is necessary for salvation ([Rm. 3:24](#)).

8. The blood of Christ is necessary for salvation ([Rm. 3:25](#)).
9. Confession is necessary for salvation ([Rm. 10:9-10](#)).
10. Baptism is necessary for salvation ([Rm. 10:13](#); cf. [Rm. 6](#)).
11. There are other things necessary for our salvation but this is sufficient to prove that nothing *alone* saves us.

### **III. Does Romans 4 Teach Faith Only Salvation?**

1. Abraham was a patriarch and lived and died under the patriarchal system.
  - a. We are first introduced to him and the three-fold promise God made to him at the end of [Genesis 11](#) into [Genesis 12](#).
  - b. His death is recorded in [Genesis 25:8](#).
  - c. The Law of Moses was not given until [Exodus 20](#).
2. Abraham was a man of faith ([Gen. 12:1-4](#)).
  - a. God said and Abraham obeyed.
  - b. Abraham continued to obey God and it was counted to him for righteousness ([Gen. 15:1-6](#)).
3. Paul used the example of Abraham to discuss saving faith in [Romans 4](#).
  - a. Abraham did not develop his own system of salvation ([Rm. 4:1-2](#)).
  - b. Instead, Abraham did what God told him to do ([Rm. 4:3-8](#)).
  - c. Abraham obeyed prior to circumcision ([Rm. 4:9-10](#)).
  - d. Jew and Gentile alike can be saved based upon their obedient faith ([Rm. 4:11-13](#)).
  - e. Just because one was of Jewish descent did not automatically make them an heir ([Rm. 4:14-15](#)).
  - f. All have equal opportunity to obey the gospel and be made heirs ([Rm. 4:16-17](#)).
  - g. The obedient faith of Abraham solidifies and encourages the same in us ([Rm. 4:18-25](#)).
4. James in [James 2:14-26](#) shows the necessity of coupling faith with obedience (works) and uses the very same example of Abraham.
  - a. It is the same Abraham which Paul said was justified by faith and James said was justified by works ([Jm. 2:23-24](#)).
  - b. No contradiction here as both Paul and James have in mind an obedient faith in order to be justified ([Rm. 1:5](#), [16:26](#); [Jm. 2:18](#)).
  - c. It is not faith alone or works alone it is faith coupled with obedience to God!

### **Conclusion**

1. Does the church teach salvation by faith alone? No.
  - a. Why? The Bible does not teach such a doctrine therefore it must be false because God's Word is truth ([Jn. 17:17](#)).
2. Neither does the church teach salvation by *anything* alone as there are many things involved in our salvation.