

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **1John 2:23-25**.
- B. John makes a very simple statement that allows us to remain faithful if we will only follow it.
- C. Those things which we did and believed in, in becoming a Xian are the very things that will help us remain a faithful one.

I. THE PLAN OF SALVATION.

- A. With very little doubt, the beginning, spoken of by John in 1Jn. 2, means the beginning of the Xian life (1Jn 2:24).
As for you, let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father.
- B. Paul uses the same language in Galatians in speaking of the start of the Xian life as the beginning (Gal. 3:3).
Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?
- C. We know the simple plan of salvation for the non-Christian is:
 - 1. Hear the gospel (Rom. 10:14).
How then shall they call upon Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?
 - 2. Believe the gospel (Mk. 16:16).
"He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned."
 - 3. Repent of sins (Lk. 13:3).
"I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."
 - 4. Confess the name of X (Mt. 10:32-33).
"Everyone therefore who shall confess Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever shall deny Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven."
 - 5. Be baptized for the remission of sins (Ac. 2:38).
And Peter said to them, "Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."
- D. These simple steps, if followed, will cause one to be added to the church and wear the name of X (Ac. 2:47; Gal. 3:26-27).
*(Ac 2:47) ...praising God, and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.
(Gal 3:26-27) For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.*

II. THESE SAME STEPS ARE ALSO FOR THE CHRISTIAN.

- A. These same principles also work in remaining faithful once one has completed their initial obedience.
- B. First, to hear the gospel, is to continually study and make one's self available to the good news (2Tim. 2:15; 1Tim. 4:13). Let's not be guilty of Heb. 5:12.
*(2Tim 2:15) Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth.
(1Tim 4:13) Until I come, give attention to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation and teaching.
(Heb 5:12) For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food.*
- C. Second, to believe, is to let our faith grow deeper and deeper (Col. 1:4, 28).
(Col 1:4,28) ...since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love which you have for all the saints; 28 And we proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, that we may present every man complete in Christ.
This is not a blind belief, or ignorant faith, but maturing belief in X and His word.

- D. Third, to repent, is an everyday job of staying away from sin (Rev. 2:5, 16; 3:3, 19).
(Rev 2:5,16) ‘Remember therefore from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you, and will remove your lampstand out of its place-- unless you repent.’ **16** ‘Repent therefore; or else I am coming to you quickly, and I will make war against them with the sword of My mouth.’
(Rev 3:3,19) ‘Remember therefore what you have received and heard; and keep it, and repent. If therefore you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come upon you.’ **19**
 ‘Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; be zealous therefore, and repent.’
 Four times in the above passages, Jesus tells Xians to repent.
- E. Fourth, to confess, is to speak and live a life others will know about (2Cor. 4:13; 1Tim. 6:12-13). No person can live the true Christian life and others not know about it.
(2Cor 4:13) But having the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, “I BELIEVED; THEREFORE I SPOKE,” we also believe, therefore also we speak;
(1Tim 6:12-13) Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who testified the good confession before Pontius Pilate,
- F. Fifth, be baptized which is a dying to self and to sin (see Rom. 6:6-13). Sin should no longer be a part of the Christian life.
- G. In summary, a Xian can remain faithful unto death by:
1. Bible Study (hearing the word).
 2. A deep and growing faith.
 3. Staying away from sin (repentance).
 4. Living so others know you are a Christian (confession).
 5. Dying to self.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. John tells us it is those things we did at the beginning that will keep us in fellowship with God and X.
- B. And the promise attached to a faithful life is eternal life (1Jn 2:25).
 And this is the promise which He Himself made to us: eternal life.
- C. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.