

BY FAITH ALONE

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WE BELIEVE, as SCRIPTURE clearly teaches, that Christ is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world (**John 1:29**) and **that whoever believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.** (**John 3:16**)

Jesus explains in (**John 6:40**); *“For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”*

HOW THEN MIGHT WE BE CERTAIN OF OUR SALVATION? “The Father said; *“Behold, this is My Son; listen to Him”* (Matthew 17:5).

“Look at Him as He lies in the manger and on the lap of His mother, as He hangs on the Cross. Observe what He does and what He says. There you will surely take hold of Me.

“For *“He who sees Me,”* says Christ, *“also sees the Father Himself.”* (**John 14:9**) Therefore “if you;

- Listen to Him, [**Mark 9:7; Luke 9:38; John 18:37**, etc.]
- Are baptized in His name, [**Titus 3:5-6, Acts 22:16**, etc.]
- Love His Word, [**John 14:23; James 2:5; Romans 8:28**, etc.]

“then you are surely predestined and are certain of your salvation...” (1)

IN SUMMARY: Listening to Christ; being baptized in His name; and loving His Word flow naturally from a Saving Faith.

They bear witness to, show evidence of and complete faith! They bear witness also to a repentant heart actively at work within us. (**Matthew 3:8; See also Luke 15:7; 2 Corinthians 7:10; Luke 13:3; 2 Corinthians 7:9-11; Romans 2:4**, etc.)

THEREFORE: “The only thing you have to do is to receive the Son, so that Christ is welcome in your heart in His birth, miracles, and cross.

“For here is the book of life in which you have been written.” (1)

(1) Luther's Works 5:43-50; American Addition; Pelikan/Schick Verses [] added

PASSAGE OF THE DAY

Mark 9:7; *“And a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice came out of the cloud, “This is my beloved Son; **listen to him.**”*

Reflect upon these passages on “**listening**” this week; (**Acts 28:27-28; Luke 10:39; Acts 3:22; Hebrews 4:2; 1 John 4:6**)

NOTABLE QUOTE

*“Just as love for God begins with **listening** to His Word, so the beginning of love for the brethren is learning to **listen** to them.*

“It is God’s love for us that He not only gives us His Word but also lends us His ear.

*“So it is His work that we do for our brother when we learn to **listen** to him.*

“Christians, especially ministers, so often think they must always contribute something when they are in the company of others, that this is the one service they have to render.

*“They forget that **listening** can be a greater service than speaking.”* Dietrich Bonhoeffer, German Lutheran Pastor

NEXT WEEKS THEME

We must make a great difference between God's Word and the word of man.

*Other than quotes, all passage - ESV

