

FOR FURTHER THOUGHT...

- What is the significance of the frequent naming of Christians as “the believers”?
- It it really a confusion when we call people of other religions people of other “faiths.” Faith is not what Islam, Judaism, or any other religion is all about.



Sola fide is the inseparable counterpart of *sola gratia*. If Christ has indeed done it all, and God has declared that salvation to belong to the world, then there is nothing left “to do” but receive it with joyful confidence.

RESPOND

Popular Opinion 101 says, *"God helps those who help themselves."*

- *"I'm going to fix myself"*
- *"We'll make up for mistakes with contributions, our guilt, our busy-ness."*
- *"We'll overcome failures with hard work."*

Instead, along with the Apostle Paul let God be our all-in-all!

- **(1 Cor.1:30)** *"It is because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us the wisdom from God, namely, our righteousness and sanctification and redemption."*



THE MOST FAMOUS CONVERSATION IN THE BIBLE

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life"
(John 3:16).

TODAY: *"...that whoever believes in him shall not perish..."*

Scripture focus: 1 John 1:1-2:2

Lesson Objective: To discover the true meaning of faith and to commit to a faith-based relationship with God.



Watch "3:16" Video

- Christianity makes it sound so simple. Believe and be saved. But some still wonder if there's a catch. *"Really, what's my part?!"*
- The video asks, *"Don't I do something?"*

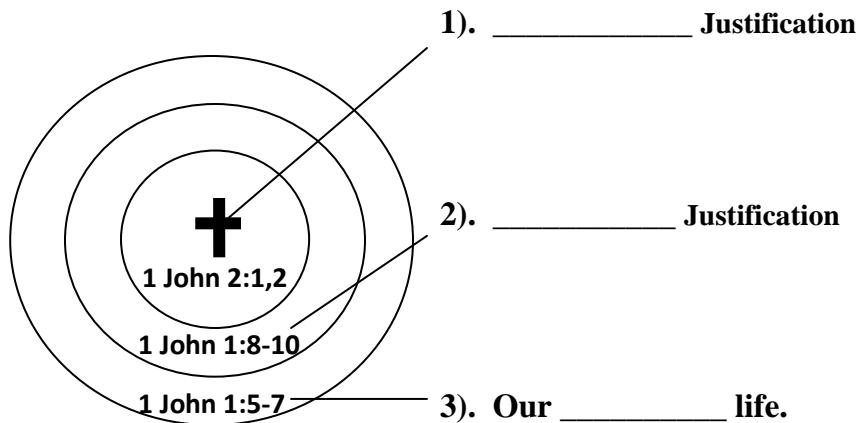
Is it: *Whoever works for Him will be saved.*

Is it: *"Whoever satisfies Him will be saved."*

THINK

Read 1 John 1:1-2:2.

THREE CIRCLES OF CERTAINTY



While our good deeds do not save us or contribute to our salvation, what are they evidence of? The theological term for our faith life is "sanctification." (sanctus = holiness). Believers who know about our holy status before God, try to live that way in thanksgiving to him. Our holiness of living will always be imperfect this side of heaven; it's always a work in progress.

1 John 1:1-2:2 - 1:1 "That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have observed and our hands have touched regarding the Word of Life—² the life appeared, and we have seen it. We testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. ³ We are proclaiming what we have seen and heard also to you, so that you may have fellowship with us. Our fellowship is with the Father and his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴ We write these things to you so that your joy may be complete.

⁵ This is the message we heard from him and proclaim to you: God is light. In him there is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we say we have fellowship with him but still walk in darkness, we are lying and do not put the truth into practice. ⁷ But if we walk in the light, just as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, his Son, cleanses us from all sin. ⁸ If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we say we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar, and his Word is not in us.

2:1 My children, I write these things to you so that you will not sin. If anyone does sin, we have an Advocate before the Father: Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. ² He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the whole world."

- **Jesus says, (John 6:29)** *"This is the work of God: that you believe in the one he sent."*

- What's Jesus' point? Is faith your work? It is hard work?
- Is there a "psychological" aspect to faith?
- Is there a "supernatural" aspect to faith? (cf. **1 Thess.2:13**)