

*“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God...” (1 Peter 4:11).*

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## CONTRADICTIONS IN THE BAPTIST MANUAL

*John Edwards*

The following quotations show the *Baptist Standard Manual* does not agree with itself.

*“We believe the Scriptures teach that salvation of sinners is wholly of grace” (p. 61).*

*“We believe the Scriptures teach that the great gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in Him is justification; that justification includes the pardon of sin, and the gift of eternal life on principles of righteousness; that it is bestowed, not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in Christ - and secures every other blessing needful for time and eternity” (p. 62).*

1) **A CONTRADICTION.** The two statements contradict each other as any thinking person can see. The word “solely” means without another. “Wholly” means entirely. Salvation cannot be “wholly of grace” and “solely through faith” and both be right.

2) **NEITHER STATEMENT IS TRUE.** It is true that we are saved by grace (Titus 2:11) and by faith (Heb. 11:6), but not by grace wholly or by faith solely. James

said, “*Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only*” (Jas. 2:24). Since we are “*saved by grace through faith*” (Eph. 2:8), it is not by or through either solely or wholly!

3) **THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER.** To be saved, we must hear, believe, repent, confess be baptized and then be faithful (Mt. 17:5; Heb. 11:6; Acts 17:30; Mt. 10:32; Mk. 16:16; Rev. 2:10).

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## THE SINNER’S PRAYER

*John Edwards*

Many believe to be saved all they must do is say a prayer like this: “God be merciful to me a sinner. Come into my heart and save me. Thank you, Lord, for saving me. Amen.” What saith the Scripture about this?

1) **NO SUCH PRAYER FOUND.** You would think, as often as people talk about the sinner’s prayer, such a prayer is found on about every page of the Bible. Where was anyone in the New Testament ever told in becoming a Christian, a child of God, to pray “the sinner’s prayer”?

2) **LOST PRAYING MEN.** The Bible records two men who prayed before they obeyed the gospel, but were not saved by prayer: Saul, of Tarsus, “*for, behold, he prayeth*” (Acts 9:11)

and Cornelius as he, “*prayed to God*” (Acts 10:2). If these were saved by prayer, then they were saved before they were even told what to do to be saved (Acts 9:6; 11:14). Thus, they were saved without faith, for “*faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God*” (Rom. 10:17). A little reading will show these two men were commanded to be baptized (Acts 10:48; 22:16).

3) **PRAYER IS NOT FOR SINNERS, BUT THE RIGHTEOUS.** We must be in the proper spiritual condition, in order to pray acceptably. John 9:31 records, “*Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth.*” Prayer is not something one does in becoming a child of God, but is a privilege one has as a child of God (1 Pet. 3:12)!

4) **HOW MEN ARE SAVED.** The Bible teaches to be saved men must hear Christ, have faith in Christ, repent of their sins, confess faith in Christ, be baptized into Christ, and live faithfully (Mt. 17:5; Jn. 8:24; Acts 17:30; Mt. 10:32; Mk. 16:16; Rev. 2:10).

Will you obey God’s plan for saving man?

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## DO YOU HAVE AN OPEN BIBLE?

John Edwards

Do you have a Bible that is open to different interpretations? Do you think God ever spoke to anyone with different interpretations in mind? Ezra the priest read the law to the people and they were able to understand it alike. Nehemiah 8:12 says, *“And all the people went their way to eat, and to drink, and to send portions, and to make great mirth, because they had understood the words that were declared unto them.”* If they could understand the law of God given by Moses alike, why would the law of God given by Christ for us today be any different?

Are the rules of sports open to different interpretations? Would we “agree to disagree” over what constitutes an “out” in baseball? Is a doctor’s prescription open to different interpretations? If you were prescribed a medication for your infection, would that be open to different interpretations? Why do we insist on different

interpretations with the word of God? Paul said, *“Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ...that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment”* (1 Cor. 1:10).

If the word of God is open to different interpretations, then the Bible is relative and subjective. How could the Scriptures be wrested or twisted to destruction (2 Pet. 3:16), if they are not absolute in their meaning?

Why the admonition to rightly divide the word of truth (2 Tim. 2:15), if truth is subjective?

Is the Bible open to conflicting, contradicting interpretations? Romans 3:4 answers well: *“God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar.”*

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## CALLING UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD

John Edwards

Romans 10:13 has often been wrested to teach things it does not teach.

1) **WHAT IT DOES NOT MEAN.** In light of Matthew 7:21, it cannot mean to just say, *“Lord, Lord”*.

2) **WHAT IT MEANS.** According to the context, calling upon the name of the Lord involves gospel preaching, hearing, believing, and obeying (Rom. 10:14-17). One who has not heard the gospel preached, believed and obeyed the gospel, simply has not called upon the name of the Lord as the passage teaches.

Baptism is an act of obedience involved in calling on the name of the Lord (Rom. 6:3-4, 17-18). Acts 22:16 records, *“And now why tarriest thou? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”*

Won’t you call upon the name of the Lord today by hearing, believing and obeying the gospel of Jesus Christ?

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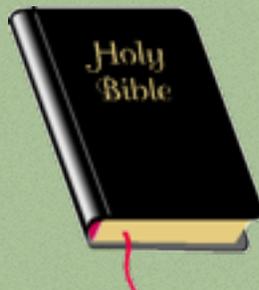
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