

WORKS WE SUPPORT

Jim & Judy O'Connor, Foreign Evangelism
Peter and Pooi Fun Chin, Four Seas College of Bible & Missions, Singapore
"Seek The Old Paths"
Chuck Northrop, Bible Institute of Missouri (Instructor)
Kent Eakins, Bible Institute of Missouri (Student)
Jerry Martin, Memphis School of Preaching (Instructor)
Philip Vanwinkle, Malaysia
"Whom Do You Serve?" Television Program
"Bible Questions with Bible Answers" Television Program

UPCOMING SERMONS

SUNDAY AM

May 6 What does it mean to offend? (1)
May 12 What does it mean to offend? (2)

SUNDAY PM

May 6 Who can forgive sins? (#366)
May 12 Hierarchy and the Bible (#367)

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Web Site Information:

www.webbervillechurchofchrist.org
<http://sermons.webbervillechurchofchrist.org>

To see our services live:

<http://live.webbervillechurchofchrist.org>

Sundays: 11 a.m., 3:30 p.m., 6 p.m.

Services:

Sunday

Bible Classes: 10 a.m.

Worship Assembly: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.

Wednesday

Bible Classes: 7 p.m.

May 6, 2012

To our visitors, we want you to know that we are honored by your being with us today. We welcome any questions you may have. All materials that you see are free of charge and if there is any other information you would like, we will be happy to provide it.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Nancy Pardon, Pete Darling, Rusty Darling, Raymond Heinz, Teresa Heinz, James Bush, Carolyn Jensen, Margaret Coats, Doug McArthur, Jean Reeder, Cheryl Akers, Kathy Briggs, Betty Jo's aunt, Erin's father, Robert Vanalstine, Jo Matheny, Jimmy Mortimore, John Mortimore, Jim Loper, Jewel Warfield, Bill Arnold

READING OF SCRIPTURE:

AM: 1 Cor. 1:21-23 **PM:** Mark 2:5-7

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

May 19 – Seminar on modesty and dress at M21 in Corunna. Charles to speak. Starts at 3 p.m.
May 20 – Potluck and soldiers' packages (5 soldiers)
May 27 – Singing at 5 p.m.; Business meeting
June 29 – Seminar with Rusty Stark

IS FAITH A WORK?

Charles Coats

I grew up in the country in south Arkansas. My father was a carpenter and the boys in the family worked on various jobs with our father. We also planted a garden and had various animals for which to care. There was always something to do.

One of our least favorite responses to our question on what are we going to do tomorrow was this one word reply: "Work". It was short and to the point, and in reality, answered our question. What it meant was there was something for us to do tomorrow.

What I learned from this was a simple truth – work is something you do! This truth is so basic that you wonder how people could misunderstand it. You may

ask, "Who misunderstands this concept?" My answer: "Most of the religious people with whom you and I will come in contact."

While well-meaning, these religious people will argue on the one hand that baptism is not necessary because it is a work, and that would be working your way to Heaven. Yet, on the other hand, they will argue that you have to believe, and that is not a work. Do we not see how they have missed this simple truth? If faith is something you have to do (You have to believe), then it is a work. And, if they believe baptism is not necessary because that would make it a work, then they must also argue that faith is not necessary, because by their own reasoning, it is a work. If not, why not?

For the faithful student of the Bible, the necessity of faith is beyond question. Without faith, we cannot please God (Heb. 11:6). It is faith that works with love that saves (Gal. 5:6). We also understand that we preach the gospel so people can come to the faith God desires (Rom. 1:16,17; Rom. 10:17; Mk. 16:15,16).

And, in all the verses dealing with faith, it is the response of mankind to the word of God. It is not something we have, but something we do. Again, this is a work that we do to help us work out our own salvation (Phil. 2:12).

A very careful reading of Scripture also shows us beyond a shadow of a doubt that faith is a work. In both 1 Thess. 1:3 and 2 Thess. 1:11, Paul commends them for their "work of faith". To argue that faith is not a work is to deny what the Scriptures and logic plainly teach us!

The whole point of this discussion is this, "What God tells us we must do is essential to our salvation whether it be faith or baptism". Because all are the work of God, and none will go to Heaven unless they have done the will of the Father in Heaven (Matt.7:21).