

our life. When we repent, we choose to allow God's will to govern our life. Without repentance of the heart, there cannot be a change in life.

4. In Acts 2:21, we learned that all who "call on the name of the Lord shall be saved." This calling on the name of the Lord is a two-fold responsibility. It requires 1) that we confess with our mouths that Jesus is Lord, just as it is written in Romans 10:9-10, and 2) that our confession be seen in our complete submission to Him as our Lord, as it is written, "...that they may call on the name of the Lord to serve Him with one accord" (Zeph. 3:9, emph. mine DP).

5. As Peter stated in Acts 2:38, when we are baptized we receive the forgiveness of sins. Acts 22:16 also teaches that when we are baptized we "wash away our sins." It is here that we enter into Christ according to Galatians 3:27. It is in baptism that we die to sin, being baptized into Christ's death, from which we are raised to walk in newness of life. This is all done by the power of God for all who believe and obey.

This, dear reader, is the plan that God has delivered to us by which we must be saved. However, this is not our complete responsibility in obeying the gospel.

#### **Be Converted**

Salvation requires more than a single act of obedience such as acknowledging Jesus as the Christ or being immersed in water. Obedience unto salvation requires that we be converted—that we change our lives completely. There is one sense in which we are converted by the working of God. By His word we are convicted of the truth and the condemnation of sin. It is written, "*The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul*" (Psalm 19:7). By God's power and grace we are changed because He blots out our sins (2 Corinthians 5:14). We are cleansed and made pure, holy, and righteous through the blood of Jesus Christ. Yet, we are told that the only way we can receive these promises is to put forth the effort to change our lives—the way we think, the way we live and what we value.

Though God does great things for us through His Son, none of that takes away our responsibility to submit to His will. It says in the Psalms, "*How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to your word*" (Psalm 119:9). It is also written, "*And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind...*" (Romans 12:2). Each of us must keep the commandments of the Lord in order to be changed by them. Therefore, our conversion, though empowered and directed by God, can only take place when we choose to obey Him in all things.

#### **Conclusion**

If you have not yet obeyed the gospel according to God's plan of salvation, then you are still in need of the forgiveness of your sins. Jesus calls all to be saved from the judgment to come. Those who do not repent and obey the gospel will be lost, but you can be saved today!

(To learn more about salvation and Christian life, feel free to contact us with the information provided below.)

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Sunday  
Morning Bible Study: 10:00am  
Morning Worship: 11:00am  
Evening Worship: 6:00pm  
Wednesday  
Evening Bible Study: 7:00pm

# What Must I Do To Be Saved?

By David Phillips



As you therefore have received  
Christ Jesus the Lord,  
So walk in Him  
Colossians 2:6

# WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

In the above title, a very important question is set forth. Our salvation is not a matter of comfort, pleasure, or personal preference as so many teach today. From the beginning men have sinned and, as a result, have separated themselves from God (Isaiah 59:2). We have become spiritually dead (Romans 5:12). The eternal consequence for our sinfulness is eternal condemnation which Jesus describes as, "...the everlasting fire prepared for the Devil and his angels" (Matthew 25:41). This wrath is coming upon those who continue in their sins. But we can thank God that He loves us so much that He offers us a way of salvation. Therefore it is written, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes on Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

This salvation is what we seek today, and it is available through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ: "Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him" (Romans 5:9). Jesus warns us though, that only those who obey the gospel can receive everlasting life. For this reason we will study the Bible to know what we must do to be saved.

## The Question Answered for the Philippian Jailor

In Acts 16:25-30, Paul and Silas had been arrested while preaching the gospel. While in the prison, they were singing hymns as the other prisoners listened. At that time, the prison shook, all the doors were opened, and the prisoner's chains were loosed, but no one fled. After realizing what had happened, it would seem that the jailor was convicted of his sins, for he knew he needed salvation when he asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" How he came to understand his need for salvation we do not know. What the scriptures do show us, however, is that all men must be convicted just as the jailor was. If we want salvation in Jesus, we must seek it with all our heart and with an honest heart. When we do this, God promises that we will find an answer to our question. What was Paul's reply to the jailor's question? Simply, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household" (Acts 16:31).

We should ask at this point, is faith all we need to be saved? Some people say that it is. However, if we read on in Acts 16 we will see that there was more to Paul's message of salvation than faith only. For though he told the jailor to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, he had not yet told him *what* to believe about Jesus. However, in Acts 16:32 it says, "They spoke the words of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house." Though the exact words which Paul and Silas spoke were not written, we do find that in response to those words the jailor and his household were baptized. "And immediately he and all his family were baptized" (Acts 16:33b). Let us stop and consider why, after hearing the words of the Lord, these people were baptized. The reason, and let us all take note, was because in *the words of the Lord* we are told, "he who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned" (Mark 16:16). We see in the scriptures that the jailor and his household immediately obeyed the words of the Lord. After they were baptized, they "rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household" (Acts 26:34).

## The Question Answered for the Jews

In the conversion of the Jews in Acts chapter two, Luke records the gospel message which Peter preached to them. In that message we learn what we must believe about Jesus. We must believe that the words revealed were delivered by the Spirit of God (Acts 2:17). We must believe that whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved (Acts 2:21). We must believe that Jesus was attested by God with miracles, which God did through Him (Acts 2:22; John 20:30). We must believe that Jesus was delivered by the predetermined plan of God (Acts 2:23). We must believe that God raised Jesus from the dead according to the scriptures (Acts 2:29). We must also believe that "This Jesus whom God raised from the dead He has also seated at His right hand on the throne of David" (Acts 2:30-33), and has given Him all authority (Matthew 28:18). Finally, in order to have salvation in Jesus, we must believe that "God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ" (Acts 2:36).

These are the words that we must believe. We can also be sure that this was the message that was preached to the Philippian jailor. We know this because it was the same message that was preached throughout the entire book of Acts. We must also notice that in every account of the gospel being preached, those who gladly accepted it were motivated to obey the commands of the Lord. This was the reaction of the Jews in Acts two when Peter had finished his sermon. They asked, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" (Acts 2:37). In response to this Peter commanded, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission

of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38). In light of this we should ask again, why was the jailor and his family baptized after they heard the words of the Lord? Because the words of the Lord command us to be baptized. The Jews in Acts two believed this, for it says that those who gladly received Peter's words were baptized (Acts 2:41).

## God's Plan Of Salvation

Within the two examples in Acts 2 and Acts 16, we find exactly what we must do to be saved according to God's plan. There are some who say we need faith only, but the Bible says that we also need obedience. There are some who say we need baptism, but fail to emphasize the importance of faith and repentance. However, according to God's plan, there are no less than five things that all men must do in order to be saved.

1. In both examples, the gospel was preached and those who were saved heard its message. We cannot stress this point enough. For if a person does not hear the gospel, they cannot be saved by it. It is written, "How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher" (Romans 10:14)? Also, a person who hears and believes the wrong gospel will not be saved (Galatians 1:6-9). There is only one gospel that saves and that gospel says...

2. We must believe the words of the Lord and no other. Remember Paul's immediate response to the jailor's question? "Believe on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ." We are told in Hebrews 11:6, "But without faith it is impossible to please Him"

3. Do you believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and that He rose from the dead? Do you believe that He is King in His kingdom? If so, then you should know that to receive salvation we must also repent of our sins. Jesus said, "Unless you repent, you will all likewise perish" (Luke 13:3, 5). Repentance is the changing of the mind. We sin when we allow our own desires to govern