

# What Must I Do To Be Saved?

## **Introduction:**

- A. Every person needs to be saved.
  - 1. Every person needs to be saved because every capable person in the world has sinned against God (Rom. 3:23).
  - 2. The sins that we have committed cause us to be separated from God and to be condemned to eternal destruction (Isa. 59:1-2).
  - 3. As the greatest demonstration of God's love, Jesus Christ came into the world and died in order to save sinners.
    - a. Rom. 5:8.
    - b. 1 Tim. 1:15.
  - 4. Every person who has sinned is in need of salvation, and salvation may be received only through Jesus Christ (Jn. 14:6).
- B. The only way to be saved is to follow God's plan.
  - 1. Jesus died for everyone, but not everyone will be saved (Matt. 7:13-14).
  - 2. When it comes to the matter of salvation, the problem is that man often substitutes his own plans in place of God's plan.
  - 3. Many people think they are saved, but they actually remain condemned in their sins because they have failed to follow God's plan.
    - a. People believe they are saved because they have good intentions, but good intentions will not save (Prov. 14:12).
    - b. People believe they are saved because they have done good works, but good works alone will not save (Acts 10:1-2; 11:13-14).
    - c. People believe they are saved because they are religious, but being religious does not mean a person is actually saved (Matt. 7:21-23).
  - 4. Salvation is available through Jesus Christ, but only those who follow God's plan will receive salvation.
- C. The Bible tells us what we must do in order to be saved.
  - 1. The issue of what sinners must do in order to receive salvation is one that is addressed often in the New Testament.
  - 2. When the crowd on Pentecost heard the truth about Jesus, the Bible says, "Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, 'Men and brethren, what shall we do?'" (Acts 2:37).
  - 3. When the Lord spoke to Saul on the road to Damascus, He said to him, "Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do" (9:6).
  - 4. The keeper of the prison in Philippi came to Paul and Silas and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" (16:30).
  - 5. The truth is that there are some things that we must do in order to receive the gift of salvation that is offered through Jesus Christ.
- D. Consider what the Bible says we must do in order to be saved.

## **Body:**

## **I. Hear The Gospel.**

- A. The message of Christ is the power God uses to save sinners.
  - 1. The “gospel” is the good news concerning Jesus Christ, who has made it possible for sinners to be saved.
  - 2. The gospel message is the power God uses to lead people to salvation (Rom. 1:16).
  - 3. The gospel includes the facts about the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus that man is expected to believe (1 Cor. 15:3-4).
  - 4. The gospel also includes certain commands that man is expected to obey as well as promises that man can expect to be fulfilled.
- B. One must hear the gospel message in order to be saved.
  - 1. The gospel message must be preached so that people can hear and understand God’s plan (Rom. 10:14).
  - 2. One must first hear the truth about Jesus Christ in order to believe in the message (v. 17).
  - 3. Jesus said, “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life” (Jn. 5:24).
  - 4. The first step a person must take in order to be saved is to hear the gospel message.

## **II. Believe The Gospel.**

- A. Belief involves an acceptance of the gospel message.
  - 1. Once a person hears and understands what the Bible says about Jesus and His offer of salvation, a decision must be made as to whether or not to accept that message as truth.
  - 2. When one becomes convinced by what he has heard that the gospel is true then he believes in it, has faith in it, and places his trust in it.
  - 3. Those who hear the gospel will not be saved unless they place their faith in what they have heard (Rom. 10:17).
- B. One must believe the gospel message in order to be saved.
  - 1. God’s plan is for sinners to be saved by believing in Jesus (Jn. 3:16).
  - 2. When the Philippian Jailer asked Paul and Silas what he must do to be saved, they said, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household” (Acts 16:31).
  - 3. Jesus said, “Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins” (Jn. 8:24).
  - 4. The gospel message is the power God uses to save those who believe (Rom. 1:16).
  - 5. Faith alone will not save anyone, because faith without works is dead (James 2:17, 24).
  - 6. But arriving at faith in the gospel of Christ is the second step a person must take in order to be saved.

## **III. Repent Of Sin.**

- A. Repentance involves a change of life and action.
  - 1. To repent is to change one’s mind and one’s actions for the better.

2. Once a person hears the gospel message and believes it, the next step is to make changes based upon what the gospel teaches.
  3. Repentance has to do with a change of mind that leads to a change of behavior.
- B. One must repent of sin in order to be saved.
1. God's plan is not to save sinners who continue in their sins, but to save those who make up their minds to stop sinning.
  2. Jesus demands repentance (Lk. 13:3).
  3. The apostle Peter preached repentance in connection with receiving salvation, saying, "Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord" (Acts 3:19).
  4. The apostle Paul said that God commands all people to repent of their sins (17:30).
  5. When a person repents that means he stops doing what is wrong and starts doing what is right.
  6. Repentance is the third step a person must take in order to be saved.

#### **IV. Confess Belief In Jesus Christ.**

- A. Confession expresses what is believed in the heart.
1. Confession has to do with making a declaration or profession with one's mouth.
  2. To confess something is to declare or express in certain words what one believes to be true.
  3. The one who believes in the gospel must also be willing to confess the "good confession" concerning Jesus Christ (1 Tim. 6:12).
- B. One must confess that Jesus is the Son of God in order to be saved.
1. Jesus said, "Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven" (Matt. 10:32).
  2. With regard to the connection between confessing the truth about Jesus Christ and receiving salvation, the apostle Paul writes: "that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation" (Rom. 10:9-10).
  3. When the Ethiopian Eunuch heard the message of Christ and wanted to obey the gospel he was commanded to confess his belief in Jesus (Acts 8:37).
  4. Confession of one's belief that Jesus is the Son of God is the fourth step a person must take in order to be saved.

#### **V. Be Baptized For The Remission Of Sins.**

- A. Baptism into Christ involves immersion in water.
1. The word "baptism" (Gr. *baptisma*) means "immersion, submersion" (J.H. Thayer, *Greek-English Lexicon*, 94).
  2. There is "one baptism" that has been commanded by God in connection with salvation and that is baptism into Christ.
    - a. Eph. 4:4-6.
    - b. Gal. 3:27.

3. Baptism in the name of the Lord is immersion in water (Acts 10:47-48).
4. Sprinkling or pouring are not baptism.
5. One must be immersed in water in order to truly be baptized.
- B. One must be baptized for the remission of sins in order to be saved.
  1. Those who hear the gospel, believe it, repent of their sins, and confess their faith in Jesus still will not be saved unless they are also baptized into Christ for the remission of their sins.
  2. Jesus said, "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned" (Mk. 16:16).
  3. Peter instructed those who wanted to be saved to, "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).
  4. When Saul wanted to be saved, he was told, "And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord" (22:16).
  5. Remission, or forgiveness of sins is granted by God to those who believe, repent, confess their belief, and are baptized into Christ.
  6. Baptism into Christ for the remission of sins is the fifth step that a person must take in order to be saved.

## **VI. Live Faithfully To The Lord.**

- A. Faithfulness involves living according to the Lord's teachings.
  1. Once a person has been baptized into Christ and has become a Christian, that individual must continue to follow Christ.
  2. Jesus said, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (Jn. 8:31-32).
  3. In order to truly be a follower of Jesus Christ one must follow His teachings and live according to His teachings.
- B. One must live faithfully after obeying the gospel in order to be saved.
  1. The sinner who is baptized into Christ is raised out of the waters of baptism to begin a new life as a faithful servant of the Lord (Rom. 6:4).
  2. The saved person has to be careful to live a life of obedience to the Lord so that he does not separate himself from God through practicing sin.
  3. The Bible says, "For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries" (Heb. 10:26-27).
  4. When it comes to the matter of salvation, only those who remain faithful will spend eternity with the Lord.
  5. Jesus said, "Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life" (Rev. 2:10).
  6. After one has been saved, the sixth step that must be taken is to remain faithful until death.

## **Conclusion:**

- A. Have you done what the Bible says you must do in order to be saved?
- B. If not, won't you obey the gospel today?