

Study#3: What Must I Do To Be Saved?

In our previous studies we examined such things as our purpose of earth and where we fit in God's plan. In this lesson we'll search the scriptures to find out what we, humanity, must do to be saved!

The title of this lesson, "What Must I Do To Be Saved?", is arguably among the greatest questions anyone person could ask. It was asked by many in the New Testament.

The Jews In Jerusalem in Acts 2 - after hearing Peter preach, they asked, *"...Men and brethren, what shall we do?"* (Acts 2:37).

Saul of Tarsus in Acts 9 - Saul asked, *"...Lord, what do You want me to do?"* (Acts 9:6).

The Philippian Jailor in Acts 16 - The Jailor asked Paul and Silas, *"Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"* (Acts 16:30).

As this lesson continues, we'll be learning about God's plan or Divine arrangement for saving man from sin!

The Divine Side Of Salvation

There are two sides to salvation, a Divine side and a human side. Let's begin with the Divine side. These are things that God has done making salvation available for humanity.

God Bestowed His Grace - This kind of grace comes from the Greek word *charis*, referring to God's lovingkindness, unmerited favor, and or the giving of something we do not deserve (Eph. 2:8).

God Poured Out His Mercy - Mercy is the taking away of something I deserve. As a sinner I deserve eternal damnation in hell fire, but God is willing to show mercy to those who meet the conditions of salvation (Eph. 2:4).

God Sacrificed His Son - A reading of John 3:16 reveals, *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."*

Jesus Shed His Blood - Paul penned, *"In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace"* (Eph. 1:7).

Holy Spirit Revealed The Word - Paul penned, "how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, 4 by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), 5 which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets" (Eph. 3:3-5).

It's God's desire that all men be saved, but there is a human side to Salvation.

The Human Side Of Salvation

The human side of salvation consist of man doing what God requires. Jesus taught, *"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven"* (Matt. 7:21).

There is not a single verse that tells us all that God requires to be saved. We learn what God requires as we survey the pages of the New Testament.

Consider "The Garden" illustration...

Matthew's Account reveals, **"And suddenly, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword, struck the servant of the high priest, and cut off his ear"** (Matt. 26:51).

Luke's Account reveals it was the **"right ear"** (Lk. 22:50). This was not revealed in Matthew's account.

John's Account reveals it was **Peter** who drew the sword, and it was **Malchus** who had his ear cut off (Jn. 18:10). This information was not revealed in Matthew's and Luke's accounts.

In a similar fashion we learn what God would have us do when we survey all of God's word!

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

I Must Hear The Gospel - A reading of Romans 10:17 reveals, *"So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."* God the Father said of Jesus, *"This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!"* (Matt. 17:5). The command to hear Jesus necessarily infers there is a message to be heard.

I Must Believe In God - 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). A reading of Hebrews 11:6 reveals, *"But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."*

I Must Repent of Sins - The Apostle Paul taught, *"Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent"* (Acts 17:30). A good commentary on repentance is recorded in 1 Peter 3:11, *"Let him turn away from evil and do good..."* (1 Pet. 3:11). Repentance involves a change of mind and action.

I Must Confess Faith In Jesus As The Son of God - Jesus taught, *"Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven"* (Matt. 10:32). Just prior to being baptized, the Ethiopian Eunuch confessed, *"I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God"* (Acts 8:37).

I Must Be Baptized - Jesus taught, *"He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned"* (Mk. 16:16). Peter commanded the Jews in Jerusalem, *"Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins..."* (Acts 2:38).

The action of Bible baptism is an immersion or burial and not a sprinkling or pouring of water. At the scene of the Ethiopian Eunuch's conversion we read, *"...And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him. 39 Now when they came up out of the water..."* (Acts 8:38-39). Notice they went "down into" and "came up out of" indicating the action was immersion. The Greek word baptizō means "to dip or bury."

The book of Acts is filled with thousands of examples of men and women becoming Christians:

- The Jews In Jerusalem (Acts 36-38; 41).
- The Samaritans (Acts 8:12).
- Simon (Acts 8:13).
- The Ethiopian Eunuch (Acts 8:37-38).
- Saul of Tarsus (Acts 9:1-6, 18; Acts 22:16).
- The Gentiles (Acts 10-11).
- Lydia (Acts 16:11-15).
- The Philippian Jailor (Acts 16:33).
- The Corinthians (Acts 18:8).
- The Ephesians (Acts 19:1-5).

Walk In Newness Of Life

After an obedient believer is baptized, he or she, must then live out the Christian life. Paul penned, *"Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, **even so we also should walk in newness of life**"* (Rom. 6:3-4).

Faithful living, service, and worship is necessary! The Christian is NOT once saved always saved! We read in the New Testament about some Christians who had "fallen from grace" (Gal. 5:4). If it doesn't matter how we live, why all the warnings and exhortation about faithfulness? Twenty-Two of the twenty-seven books of the New Testament (Romans through Revelation) were written to Christians and these letters contain a lot of instruction about Christian living, behavior, service, and worship. It's clear it matters to God how we live as Christians.

Paul summed it up in this statement, *"...Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him"* (2 Cor. 5:9). Our aim as Christians is to please, honor, and glorify God!

For Discussion Questions

For Discussion #1: What question did the Jews in Jerusalem, Saul of Tarsus, and the Philippian Jailor all ask?

For Discussion #2: What did God do to make salvation possible for humanity?

For Discussion #3: What is the difference between Grace and Mercy?

For Discussion #4: What does God require of man to be saved from sin?

For Discussion #5: What is my duty after I am baptized?