

What Does it Mean to Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ?

By Allen Webster (continued from 6-14-26)

ACTS 16:31 CONNECTS TO THE GREAT COMMISSION

ACTS 16:31 CONNECTS TO ACTS 16:32

ACTS 16:31 CONNECTS TO OTHER "WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?" PASSAGES

"What must I do to be saved?" (or the equivalent) is asked three times in Acts.

It was asked by the Jews on Pentecost (Acts 2:37). Peter replied: "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). The result: "Those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them" (Acts 2:41).

It was asked by Saul of Tarsus. When he saw the Lord in a vision, he asked, "What shall I do, Lord?" Christ directed him to go into Damascus where he would be told all things appointed for him to do (Acts 22:10). After three days of Saul's penitent prayer, Jesus sent Ananias to him, saying, "Why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins" (Acts 22:16). The result: "He arose and was baptized" (Acts 9:18).

It was asked by the jailer (Acts 16:30).

Note that, surprisingly, a different answer was given each time. Does God have no definite plan? Does He require different things of different people? No, God is no respecter of persons (Acts 10:34–35; Romans 2:11). Everyone is required to make the same trip; some are just farther down the road than others.

Suppose one was going to Philippi and asked a passerby, "How far to Philippi?" He answers, "Ten miles." He walks farther and asks, "How far to Philippi?" "Six miles." Later he asks, "How far to the city?" "Only half a mile."

The traveler received three answers to the same question, yet each was correct because he was in a different place.

The same is true with salvation. To

The Jews: "Repent . . . and be baptized."

Saul of Tarsus: "Be baptized."

The jailer: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ."

Combined, the three answers were (a) Believe; (b) Repent; (c) Be baptized. Each questioner was in a different place: *(continued on back page)*

Those on Pentecost had met requirement (a) and were told (b) and (c).

Saul of Tarsus was a believer (a) who was penitent (b), so he was told (c).

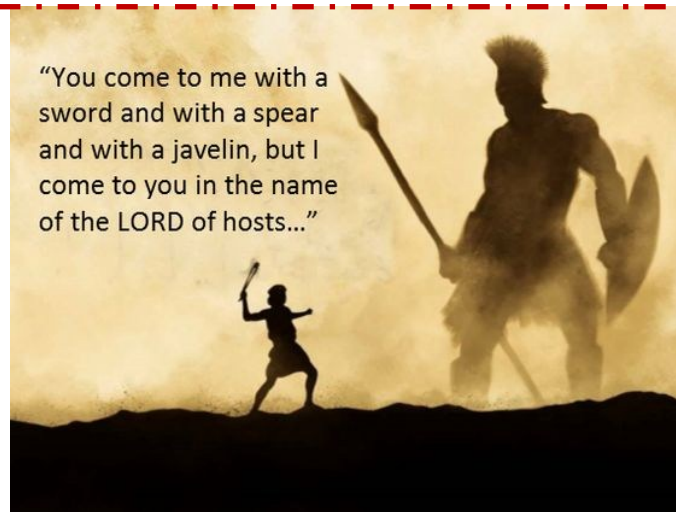
The jailer had fulfilled no requirement, so he was told to do (a); then (b) and (c) were explained to him. Believing (a) did not exempt him from (b) and (c).

(continued on back page)

Prayers and Concerns

- ◆ Casey Hambelton had foot surgery Friday.
- ◆ Barbara Stevens will have an electrocardiogram to determine if she needs surgery.
- ◆ Remember those with health issues—Bill Cockrum, Dale Strong, Randy Johnson, Larry Butler, Aleta Collins, Lloyd Ellis, Ruth Strain, Coe Hamm, Vicki Boland.
- ◆ All those battling cancer—Dale Strong, Terry Pennington, Pat McKaig, Jamie Crisp, Ricky Langston, Lisa Langston, Tiffany Pleasant, Amy Myers, Don Luna, Wayman King, Donna Shipley, Elaine Hunter (Larry's sister), Dawn (Chris Lemburg's sister), Jana Crisp, Richard Blackburn, Sharon Fox, Bill Agee, Joy Cutbirth, Dan Harvey.
- ◆ GHCC: Virginia Hambelton, Delphia Holmes, Clifford Lansdown at Hiram Shaddox; Wilbern Uchtman at Brook Haven.
- ◆ Homebound: Vernon James, Steve Siebels, Mary Piepergerdes.

4th of July cookout—6:30 p.m. Saturday—pavilion
Hamburgers and hotdogs provided. Please bring a side dish or
homemade ice cream. Fireworks downtown at dark.



We are not living in fear.
We are living in faith.

Birthdays		Anniversaries	
6-1	Barbara White	6-7	Brian and Casey Hambelton (29)
6-6	Amy Stevens	6-8	John and Melinda Abraham (35)
6-15	Dylan Abraham (18)	6-8	Don and Barbara Luna (58)
6-15	Cynthia Bryant	6-10	Steve and Diana Siebels (31)
6-15	Brian Hambelton	Birthdays	
6-15	Titus Smith	6-27	Adeline Smith (7)
6-18	Dorlene Butler	6-29	Stetson Pleasant (9)
6-21	Chris Lemburg	6-29	Denise Crisp

Date	Event	Details
Saturday, 7/4, 6:30 p.m.	4th of July Cookout Fireworks on the square at dark.	Hamburgers and hotdogs provided. Please bring a side dish or homemade ice cream.

A modern illustration might make it clearer. Suppose a high school student asked, "What must I do to get a PhD?"

Her friend might say, "You'll have to go to college." Her advisor would reply, "Complete high school, get your college undergraduate degree. Then enroll in graduate school and obtain a master's. After that, apply for candidacy in a doctoral program."

If a college graduate asked that question, he would not be told to finish high school and complete undergraduate work. He would be instructed to "enroll in graduate school, get a master's, and apply to a doctoral program."

If one with a master's degree asked this, she would be told, "Apply to be a candidate in a doctoral program." Each is at a different point.

"Go to college" is the short answer. It implies all that is in the long answer. "Believe on Jesus" is the short answer. It implies all that is in the long answer.
(continued next week)

July Worship Assignments

Welcome & Shepherd's Prayer

Today Don Luna
7-5 David Stevens
7-12 John Abraham
7-19 Mark Lane

Communion & Closing Prayer

Titus Smith

Song Leader: John Abraham; Titus Smith

Greeters: Dana and Marsha Crisp; Kay Young and Mary Lou Snelson

The Family News

June 28, 2026

Gainesville Church of Christ

PO Box 7, 23550 US Hwy. 160, Gainesville, MO 65655

www.gainesvillechurchofchrist.org

A Place to Call Home

We welcome you and are so glad you could worship with us today.

Schedule of Services

Sunday

9:30 a.m. Bible Classes for All Ages

10:30 a.m. Worship Service: ***The Longest Gospel***

Wednesday

7 p.m. Bible Classes for all ages

Sunday Worship Outline

Welcome and Shepherd's Prayer

Kids Singing up front

#490, *It Is Well with My Soul*; #1028, *O, Holy Night*

#359, *I Love the Lord*; Communion Service

#577, *We Bow Down*

Sermon and Invitation

#943, *Do You Know My Jesus?*

Above the Bright Blue; Closing Prayer

Offering baskets are located at the back.

We are a community of redeemed sinners who are following Jesus Christ, proclaiming the gospel of grace, loving our Lord and one another.

Elders

Mark Lane 417-679-4835
Don Luna 417-712-1945
David Stevens 417-679-4700
John Abraham 870-421-5632

Deacons

Dana Crisp 417-331-5090
James Langston 870-315-4355

Preacher

Halbert Smith 417-257-3880

Ministers: Every Member—Each One of Us