Salvation According to Scripture

Entering the New Covenant

By
John
Servant and witness of Christ
Zion's Roar Holy Spirit Ministry
Bixby, Oklahoma

Book 2- Chapter 03 – Study 08

Measuring What You Once Believed Against Scripture

Revised June 08, 2026

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Scripture quotations are taken from the King James Version (KJV) of the Holy Bible.

Published by:
Zion's Roar Holy Spirit Ministry
Bixby, Oklahoma

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www.zionsroar**.org**
Email: www.zionsroar.org@gmail.com
Text: 918-814-1593

To those who love truth more than the praise of men, and who desire to walk in the light.

Little children, let no man deceive you. He that doeth righteousness is righteous. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ hath life.

This booklet is an invitation to honest examination. Thirty minutes in the Word of God is a small price to pay when eternity is at stake.

Do not assume you are safe. Test what you believe by Scripture. Do not trust tradition, emotion, or a preacher's assurance. Open your Bible and verify every claim.

If what is written here is false, you lose nothing by proving it. But if it is true and you ignore it, you may stand before God confident in things He never approved.

Read carefully. Examine honestly. Verify everything.
"Prove all things; hold fast that which is good."
1 Thessalonians 5:21

Heavenly Father,

I come before You seeking truth and not comfort. Expose error in me and remove blindness from me. Open my eyes to understand the Scriptures, my ears to hear, and my heart to obey.
Deliver me from tradition and self-deception and guide me by Your Spirit into the faith once delivered unto the saints.
Give me humility to receive correction, courage to follow truth, and strength to walk in obedience. Let truth take root in me and bear fruit that honors You.

May Your will be done in my life, and may I walk in truth until the end.

In the name of Your only begotten Son, Christ, we pray, Amen.

A Letter to Those Who Preach a Watered-Down Gospel and to all who call themselves teachers yet pervert the message of salvation. Grace be with the humble, and correction to the proud. You claim to preach the gospel of Christ, yet the message you carry has been stripped of its power. You tell men they are saved by "faith alone," and by that lie you have silenced repentance, buried baptism, and denied the work of the Holy Ghost. Do you not know that the gospel of Christ is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth, obeyeth, and walketh in truth (Romans 1:16)?

The blood of Christ was shed for the remission of sins (Matthew 26:28), not for a license to sin without fear. Without the shedding of blood there is no remission (Hebrews 9:22). Yet you tell people that remission is automatic the moment they believe. Where is it written, "He that believes only shall receive remission"? Search the Scriptures. You will not find it. John preached the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins (Mark 1:4). Christ commanded that repentance and remission of sins be preached in His name among all nations (Luke 24:47). Peter obeyed and said, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Christ for the remission of sins." (Acts 2:38) You changed the message of remission to forgiveness, and forgiveness to presumption. But remission means more. God erases the past as if it never happened (Romans 3:25).

You say baptism is only a symbol, yet the Word declares it is the appointed moment of remission. "The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us." (1 Peter 3:21) How can you deny the words save us? Do you not read? "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." (Mark 16:16) "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." (John 3:5) When you call baptism optional, you call the

command of Christ unnecessary. When you make it symbolic, you empty it of purpose. Paul wrote, "Buried with Him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with Him through faith in the operation of God." (Colossians 2:12) At baptism, sin is buried, faith is demonstrated, and the conscience becomes clean before God (1 Peter 3:21). "Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord." (Acts 22:16) Without this washing, you leave men still clothed in guilt, still unburied, still unraised.

You say the Spirit fills those who simply believe. Then why did the apostles' lay hands on the baptized that they might receive the Holy Ghost? "They were baptized, then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost." (Acts 8:14-17) Paul asked the disciples at Ephesus, "Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?" (Acts 19:2). They answered no, and only after baptism in the name of Christ did they receive it. Even Christ, who had no sin, was baptized and the Spirit descended upon Him (Matthew 3:16). He established the order: repentance, baptism, then the Spirit. Faith begins it. Obedience completes it.

You teach that God's love accepts all without obedience, but Christ said the opposite. "If ye love Me, keep My commandments." (John 14:15) "He that hath My commandments and keepeth them, he it is that loveth Me." (John 14:21) "This is the love of God, that we keep His commandments." (1 John 5:3) Love is not tears or words. Love is submission. The same way the Son loved the Father by obedience even unto death (Philippians 2:8), so must we love Him. Anything less is emotional idolatry.

You boast, "Not by works!" and quote Ephesians 2:8-9, yet you refuse verse 10. "We are His workmanship, created in Christ unto good works." James confronted your doctrine long before you. "Faith, if it hath not works, is dead." (James 2:17) "Ye see then

how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only." (James 2:24) Even Titus testifies, "They profess that they know God; but in works they deny Him, being abominable and disobedient." (Titus 1:16) Works do not earn salvation. They reveal it. Faith without obedience is the corpse of religion.

Christ Himself said, "Not everyone that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he that doeth the will of My Father." (Matthew 7:21-23) Your people cry "Lord, Lord," yet continue in sin, excusing disobedience under the banner of grace. You make grace a cover for rebellion. But Paul wrote, "Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid." (Romans 6:1-2) "Ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin." (Romans 6:17-18) Freedom came after obedience, not before it.

There is one gospel, one faith, one baptism (Ephesians 4:5). Every conversion in Acts follows the same order: 1) Belief (Acts 16:31), 2) Repentance (Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38), 3) Baptism for Remission of Sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16; Romans 6:3-4), 4) Receiving the Holy Ghost (Acts 8:17; 19:6), 5) Continuing in Obedience and Good Works (John 15:10; James 2:17). You removed steps two through four and left people standing at the door without entering the kingdom.

I marvel that you are so soon removed from Him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel. "Though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached, let him be accursed." (Galatians 1:8-9) The gospel of "faith alone" is another gospel. It leaves men unrepentant, unwashed, and unsanctified. It denies the command of baptism, despises the Spirit's indwelling, and mocks obedience

as legalism. You have turned the cross into a slogan and stripped it of its covenant blood.

Return to the message preached at Jerusalem: repentance, remission, baptism, and the Holy Ghost. Preach as Peter did. Walk as Paul walked. Let your converts obey from the heart and rise in newness of life. For there is no salvation without remission, no remission without baptism, no baptism without repentance, no Spirit without obedience, and no faith without works. "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling." (Philippians 2:12) "For if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?" (1 Peter 4:18).

I write not to shame you but to awaken you. The gospel you defend produces crowds, not converts; excitement, not endurance. Return to the apostles' doctrine (Acts 2:42), lest you be found preaching a faith that saves no one. Grace and truth be multiplied unto all who love obedience more than comfort, and to those who have ears to hear what the Spirit saith to the churches.

Written in Love and truth and instruction by John, servant and disciple of Christ, Zion's Roar Holy Spirit Ministry.

If you died today, are you certain you would enter the Kingdom of Heaven?
Most believers assume they are saved. Very few have ever tested that belief by Scripture.

Are you following the plan of salvation and faith that was once delivered unto the Saints?
In other words, are you following the Apostle's doctrine, or are you following a common plan of salvation, which is a manmade doctrine?

Is your doctrine of salvation the right one?
Have you verified with the Holy Scriptures the salvation plan your pastor is preaching?
How sure are you, that you have not been deceived and accepted a counterfeit salvation plan? In other words, are you doing what God requires to receive salvation?

The true gospel is not being preached today, which is a huge reason why we have an enormous number of false expectations and very little obedience, which all leads to false salvations.

The most common plan of salvation is that we are saved the moment we believe or have faith.
Sometimes the sinner's prayer is also required.
You might have heard also that baptism is not necessary for salvation, that it is only an outward expression of our faith.

One common salvation story goes like this: a preacher approaches someone and explains that all people are sinners and must repent. Eventually he asks, "*Do you want to be saved? All you have to do is believe!*".
If the person answers, "*Yes, I believe,*" the preacher immediately responds with excitement: "*Praise the Lord! You are now a child of God. Pray this prayer with me and you will be saved.*"
This can become confusing or overwhelming, because there are so many different doctrines and beliefs in this matter!

Why do some pastors tell you to put your head down and close your eyes when they are asking if there is anyone that would like to accept Christ? Is it shameful to accept Christ in your life, therefore, no one should be looking?
Why do others require baptism as proof of being saved?
Or good works?
Or tithing for that matter!

The reason there is so much confusion is because many have replaced the gospel of Christ with a gospel of comfort. They promise heaven without repentance, salvation without obedience, and faith without action. But the apostles never preached that kind of gospel. They preached repentance, baptism in the name of Christ for the remission of sins and receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit. That was and still is the plan of salvation delivered to the saints.

The modern church often teaches a partial gospel that requires no death to self and no obedience to God's commands. It teaches people to say a prayer rather than to be born again. Yet Scripture makes it clear that faith without works is dead, and that salvation requires both belief and obedience. Those who truly follow Christ must enter through the narrow gate, not the wide one created by human tradition.

The true gospel calls for repentance, water baptism in the name of the Son of God, and a life led by the Holy Spirit. Anything less is not the gospel of Christ, but a counterfeit message designed to keep people comfortable while still lost. Salvation is not found in repeating words but in obeying truth. The gospel that saves is the same one preached by Peter, Paul, and every apostle of the early church. It has not changed, and it never will. At least not until the return of our Lord and Saviour.

But is this all biblical?

If any of that sounds familiar to you, then you need to STOP right now and listen carefully to what the Scriptures say!

We are **NOT** asking you to believe what we are about to show you!
We are just asking for you to listen, read and then verify whether we bring biblical truth or not. Just like the Bereans, that received the word with all readiness of mind and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so! **Acts 17:10-11**

Let's start with Jude 1:3 (KJV) Beloved, When I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the Saints.
Let us break this verse down.
Ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the Saints.

The definition of **EARNESTLY** is with sincere and intense conviction; **seriously**.
The definition of **CONTEND** is to strive.

So, this is what Jude is saying:
It was needful to write to you of the common salvation and appeal to you that ye should, (leave that common salvation plan and**) with sincere and intense conviction, strive for the faith which was once delivered unto the Saints.**

In other words, Jude warns believers to fight earnestly for the original faith that was delivered to the apostles. That faith must be defended, protected, and preserved.

That Common salvation is NOT of the true faith!

I have 3 questions for you, before we dive into the scriptures to find out what common plan of salvation they are talking about and if it is biblical or not!

1. Has your Pastor ever told you that, we all need to go through a conversion process in order to receive salvation?

2. Have you ever heard that without conversion, you will NOT enter into the Kingdom of Heaven?

3. Did you know that Simon Peter was NOT saved the moment he believed or had faith?

Neither was he already saved by the time Christ was crucified!
He was still not even saved by the time Christ went to heaven which was 40 days after the resurrection!

Now, there has been, there is now and there will always be a counterfeit plan of salvation!
So, we need to be careful and make sure we are following the true Gospel of Christ!
That we are also always verifying and making sure that we are in fact on the road to salvation!
The Bible is full of warnings about false teachers and false gospels. Paul told the Galatians, "If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed" **(Galatians 1:9 KJV)**. That is how serious this is. There is only one true gospel, the same one preached by the apostles. Every other message, no matter how emotional or popular, leads people away from truth.
The faith that was once delivered to the saints was not a suggestion. It was a command to obey the words of Christ, repent from sin, be baptized in His name, and receive the Holy Spirit. That is the pattern every true believer follows in the book of Acts. Any gospel that changes this pattern is not the gospel of Christ but the invention of men.

The call to contend for the faith means to fight for truth with conviction, to reject compromise, and to hold fast to the doctrine that came from the mouth of the apostles. The Spirit of God always leads people back to that foundation, never away from it. If the message you are hearing makes salvation easier than what Scripture teaches, it is not from God.

What you are about to see in Scripture surprises many believers.

When it comes to Peter and what he believed, the gospel tells us that Peter not only believed Christ was the Christ, **it tells us that Peter knew for a fact the He was the Christ!**
Matt 16:13-17 (KJV) When Christ came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? **14**…**15**…**16 And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. 17** And Christ answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.
Biblical fact #1 - Peter believed!
But was he truly saved?

When it comes to Peter's faith, the gospel tells us that Peter was also lacking faith!
Remember when Peter tried to walk on water? **Matt 14:28-31 (KJV)** And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. **29** And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Christ. **30** But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me. **31** And immediately Christ stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, **O thou of little faith**, wherefore didst thou doubt?
Biblical fact #2 - Peter was lacking faith!
Listen to what Christ told Peter about his failing faith and conversion. Luke 22:31-32 (KJV) And the Lord said, Simon,

Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: **32** But I have prayed for thee, **that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted,** strengthen thy brethren.
(Peter's faith was still failing and he was NOT converted yet!)

Here is the (continuation) and proof that this was before the crucifixion!
33 And he said unto him, Lord, I am ready to go with thee, both into prison, and to death.
34 And he said, I tell thee, Peter, the cock shall not crow this day, before **that thou shalt thrice deny that thou knowest me.**

So, until the moment leading to Christ's crucifixion, **Peter was lacking faith, was not converted yet, and had denied Christ 3 times!**

Here is where Christ tells us that conversion is a Necessary step to salvation!

Mat 18:3 (KJV) And said, Verily I say unto you, **except ye be converted**, and become as little children, **ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.**

Except ye be converted, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven!
Biblical fact #3 - If you are NOT converted, you will NOT enter into the Kingdom of Heaven!

So far, we have also proven that by the time of the crucifixion, Peter still had not completed his conversion, and no conversion means not entering the Kingdom of Heaven, which means NOT saved!
You see, Satan wants us to believe we are saved the moment we believe, but when you truly go deep into the scriptures and specially see the story of peter's salvation, we can see that he went through a couple of different things before he received his salvation!

PETER HAD TO GO THROUGH A CONVERSION PROCESS!
Peter first saw Christ and **believed John 1**.
Peter then **confessed his sin Luke 5:1-11**.
Finally, Peter later **confessed Christ as Lord Mark 8:27–9:1**.
During all this time, Peter was walking with Christ, learning from Christ and at the same time preaching and teaching, doing the works of the Lord, and even performing miracles.
But we know for a fact, that by the time of Christ crucifixion, **Peter's faith was failing**, **He denied Christ 3 times,** and **he was not converted yet!**
We already know that we need conversion, but did you notice in **Luke 22**, how Peter denied Christ? And what does Christ say about denying Him? **Mat 10:33 (KJV)** But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.
Biblical fact #4 - So, even though Peter had been walking with Christ for over 2 years; If Peter had died in that moment, his salvation would still have been unresolved according to Christ's own words. **Peter was not saved yet!**
Because:
1. Peter was not converted yet! **Mat 18:3 (KJV) Except ye be converted, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.**
2. Christ would have denied Peter because Peter denied Him 3 times! **Mat 10:33 (KJV)** But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.

Whether Peter's faith was perfected, and his conversion completed when he received the Holy Spirit in power in **Acts 2**, (Pentecost) or whether it was way later when he embraced the fullness of the gospel in **Acts 10:11 Is NOT the point here!**
That is not what I am trying to point out!
The point and **TRUTH** is that **no one is saved the moment they believe or have faith.**
OK, still not convinced; How about this one?

Romans 13:11 (KJV) And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for **now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.**
Now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.

After believing we need to go through a conversion process and do a couple of things that God requires to receive His salvation! Like first **believing**, and lastly **baptism,** just like **Mark 16:16 states.** And in between faith, repentance, confessing, etc.

So, you will have to be obedient and do all those things **Unless,** Christ himself shows up and tells you that you are saved; just like He did with the thief on the cross. **And I mean, CHRIST SHOWING UP FOR REAL IN YOUR DEATHBED!**

The Thief on the Cross Is Not the Pattern of Salvation

Romans 13:11 (KJV) And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now, is our salvation nearer than when we believed."
Notice what Paul says. Our salvation is **nearer than when we believed**. This tells us something important. Believing is not the end of the matter. Salvation in Scripture involves responding to what God commands. The Scriptures speak of believing, repentance, confession, baptism, faithfulness, and enduring to the end.
Yet whenever baptism is mentioned as part of obedience to the gospel, someone almost immediately brings up the same objection:
"The thief on the cross was saved without baptism."
And they point to the words spoken by Christ.
Luke 23:43 (KJV) And Christ said unto him, Verily I say unto thee today, thou shalt be with me in paradise.
From that one moment they try to build a doctrine that removes baptism from salvation.

But when we examine the Scriptures carefully, the argument quickly begins to fall apart.
First, we must remember who was speaking.
Christ is the Son of God. He has authority that no man has.
During His earthly ministry He forgave sins directly.
Mark 2:10 (KJV) But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins…
And again, we see this in another place.
Luke 7:48 (KJV) And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven.

Christ did not need anyone else to declare forgiveness. He did not need a ceremony to grant mercy. If He chose to forgive someone directly, that was His authority.
So, when Christ looked at the thief and said:
"I say unto thee today, thou shalt be with me in paradise," the matter was settled. The Son of God had spoken.
But here is the honest question that must be asked.
Did Christ personally appear to you and declare your salvation?
If not, then we must not build our doctrine upon a unique moment where the Son of God personally pronounced forgiveness.

There is another truth that many overlook.
The thief lived and died **before the New Covenant fully took effect**.
Scripture explains this very clearly.
Hebrews 9:16–17 (KJV) For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise, it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth.
A covenant becomes active **after the one who made it dies**.
When Christ spoke to the thief, He had not yet died. The New Covenant had not yet been established in its fullness. The gospel instructions that would soon be preached to the world had not yet been delivered.
The thief lived during the transition between the Old Covenant and the New.

There is another detail that Scripture reveals.
The Holy Spirit had not yet been given.
Christ Himself said this.
John 7:39 (KJV) For the Holy Ghost was not yet given, because that Christ was not yet glorified.
Later Christ promised the coming of the Spirit.
John 14:16 (KJV) And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter…
John 16:7 (KJV) If I depart, I will send him unto you.
The Holy Spirit would come **after Christ was glorified**, which happened after His resurrection and ascension.
So, the thief died before the gospel was preached, before the Spirit was given, and before the apostles were sent to the nations.
Then something very important happened.
After Christ rose from the dead, He gave the apostles the instructions that would be preached to the world.
Mark 16:16 (KJV) He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.
Notice carefully what Christ DID NOT say.
He did not say:
"He that believes alone shall be saved."
He joined belief and baptism together.
Belief and baptism were not enemies. They were connected parts of responding to the gospel.
Yet many people quietly insert a word that Christ never spoke.
They say, "We are saved by faith **alone**," or "believing **alone**."
But the word **alone** does not appear in Christ's command.
Adding words to God's instructions is not a small matter. In fact, the very first deception in Scripture happened exactly this way.
Genesis 3:4 (KJV) And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall **not** surely die.
God had said they would surely die. Satan inserted one word, **not**, and the meaning changed completely. That single added word turned obedience into rebellion and brought death into the world.
The method has not changed.
Christ said: "He that believeth **and is baptized** shall be saved."
But men say: "He that believeth **alone** shall be saved."

One added word removes the command Christ gave. What God joined together, men separate.
And Scripture speaks directly to this very issue.
James 2:24 (KJV) Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and **not by faith only**."
The only place in the entire Bible where the phrase **"faith only"** appears, it is rejected.
So, when men preach salvation by "faith alone," they are teaching the very thing Scripture says **is not so**.

When the apostles began preaching after the resurrection, faith alone or believing alone is exactly the opposite of what they taught.
On the day of Pentecost, when people asked what they must do, Peter answered plainly.
Acts 2:38 (KJV) Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.
Again and again throughout Acts, when people believed, they were baptized.
The Ethiopian asked:
Acts 8:36 (KJV) See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?
Cornelius and his household were commanded to be baptized.
Acts 10:48 (KJV) And he commanded them to be baptized.
And when Paul himself was converted, he was told:
Acts 22:16 (KJV) Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins.
This raises an obvious question.

If the thief on the cross were the model of salvation, why did the apostles never tell anyone to follow his example?
The apostles preached many conversions, yet they never once said: "Just believe like the thief on the cross."

Instead, they commanded repentance and baptism.
But there is one verse that many people overlook, and it makes the matter even clearer.

1 Peter 3:21 (KJV) The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us…
Peter did not say baptism represents salvation.
He said baptism **now saves us**.
The word ***now*** is important.
It shows that after the death, resurrection, and glorification of Christ, the response to the gospel includes baptism.
The thief was saved before these instructions were given.
But after Christ rose and the gospel was preached to the world, the apostles consistently taught repentance and baptism as part of entering into Christ.

The First Missing Question People Rarely Ask
When people say, "the thief on the cross was saved without baptism," they usually overlook something important.
The thief was not the only person whose sins were forgiven during Christ's ministry.
Christ forgave many people directly while He walked the earth.
Luke 7:48 (KJV) And he said unto her, thy sins are forgiven.
And again:
Mark 2:5 (KJV) Son, thy sins be forgiven thee.
None of those people were baptized at that moment either.
Why?
Because Christ was physically present and had authority to forgive sins directly.
But after His resurrection something changed.
Christ sent the apostles into the world with clear instructions.
Matthew 28:19 (KJV) Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them…
From that moment forward, forgiveness was no longer granted by Christ standing physically before someone and declaring it.
Instead, the apostles were sent to preach the gospel and baptize those who believed.
So, the thief is not an example meant to replace the gospel instructions.
He simply lived **before those instructions were given to the world**.

The Argument That Completely Collapses the Thief Excuse

There is another passage that exposes the weakness of the thief argument even further.

Romans 6:3 (KJV) Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Christ were baptized into his death?

This verse reveals something extremely important.

Scripture teaches that believers are baptized **into Christ's death**.

But when did Christ die?

His death happened **after** the conversation with the thief.

The thief died before Christ died.

So, the thief could not possibly have been baptized into Christ's death, because the death of Christ had not yet occurred.

Paul is describing the salvation response that came **after the cross**, when believers are united with Christ through baptism into His death and resurrection.

This means the thief's situation happened **before the very event baptism connects us to**.

The Final Point That Brings It All Together

When people use the thief on the cross to remove baptism from salvation, they are building doctrine on a moment that happened:

- before Christ died
- before the New Covenant began
- before the Holy Spirit was given
- before the gospel was preached
- before the apostles were sent to baptize the nations

Yet after all those things happened, the apostles consistently commanded baptism when people believed.

So, the real question becomes very simple.

Should we follow the rare circumstance of a man who lived before the gospel was preached?

Or should we follow the clear instructions that Christ gave to His apostles after He rose from the dead?

The Scriptures leave little room for confusion.

Christ showed mercy to the thief.

But for the world that would follow, He gave clear instructions through the gospel.
Believe the gospel.
Repent of your sins.
Be baptized into Christ.
Receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
Doctrine must come from the clear commands of Scripture, not from a rare exception that occurred before the gospel was fully revealed.

Remember, this is NOT a full study!
This is only intended to help you see and understand that there is more to salvation than just believing!
That there is a conversion process that we need to go through!
Just remember, it is your salvation that is at stake and not mine!
What I mean is that you are responsible for your own salvation and not someone who loves you or calls themselves a child of God!
Your Pastor could have the sincerest love and wishes to get you saved, but if his doctrine is wrong, then it becomes; the blind leading the blind to hell!

Our next step is to briefly talk about:
1. Proving that baptism is not only a commandment, but a necessary step towards salvation!
2. We will briefly touch on the subject of obedience!
3. We will talk about good works!
4. We will also talk about the importance of where you are getting your biblical knowledge!

Continuing with this brief eye opener; Christ said that for a person to be converted he needs to:
See, hear and understand with his heart:
Mark 4:12 (KJV) That seeing they may **see** and not perceive; and **hearing** they may hear and not **understand**; lest at any time they

should be converted, and their sins should be forgiven them. Also found in **Mat 13:15, Isa 6:10, John 12:40, Acts 28:27**

And repent: Acts 3:19 (KJV) Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord.

Some people are under the impression that repentance is a change of mind!
This is just like saying:
I know God hates my sin, and my sin keeps me separated from God, So I have changed my mind on being sinful today! We will see how I feel about it tomorrow!

Repentance is not JUST a change of mind!
The repentance (metanoia) called for throughout the Bible is a summons to a personal, absolute, and ultimate unconditional surrender to God as Sovereign. Though it includes sorrow and regret, it is more than that. ... In repenting, one makes a complete change of direction (180° turn) toward God.
True repentance means turning completely away from sin and toward God. It is not merely regret or a temporary decision. It is a sincere commitment to abandon all sin and pursue righteousness.

At least we need to stay away from those things or people that may tempt us to go against God and/or even seeking council, accountability, and help when needed!

Now let us speak about water baptism!

Is baptism an outward expression of an inward change? Is it a public declaration of how Christ changed your life? Supposedly being baptized only shows others that you have decided to follow Christ, and allows them to celebrate this decision with you, they quote (**Acts 16:31-34**).

Most preachers dare to say that baptism does not save a person; they say it's only a symbol and celebration of our faith and or

salvation, and they quote **1 Peter 3:21 (KJV) "**not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God, by the resurrection of Christ:"

But they choose to ignore the first part of that same verse! "The like figure whereunto even **baptism does also now save us**.". **You see, Gospel says that "baptism does now also save us," but men turn their blind eye and say that "baptism does <u>not</u> save us."**

This is all very similar to the situation of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden.
God in **Genesis 2:17** told Adam and Eve not to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, "For in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." But Satan told Eve in **Genesis 3:4**, "Then the serpent said to the woman, you will **not** surely die." Satan only added the one word **"not"** to what God had said and completely changed the meaning of God's commandment!

That is exactly what men are doing to God's commands today. Who are you going to accept, the word of men or the Word of God?
We are told in **Acts 5:29,** "We ought to obey God rather than men."

On the Day of Judgment, the Bible will still say that **"baptism does ALSO now save us."**
Baptism is in fact **1 Peter 3:21 "the answer of a good conscience towards God"**

So, if we continue studying and searching the scriptures, we now must look at how or why having a good conscience!

Christ himself also tells us that we hold our faith in a pure conscience: 1 Tim 3:9 (KJV) Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience.

Our Conscience bears witness in the Holy Ghost.
Rom 9:1 (KJV) I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost,

Our Conscience bears witness of the work we do.
Rom 2:15 (KJV) Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;)

We should thank God whom we serve with a clear conscience: 2 Tim 1:3 (KJV) I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers with pure conscience, that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day.

You see, this is all connected to water baptism!
1 Peter 3:21 (KJV) The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, **but the answer of a good conscience toward God**,) by the resurrection of Christ:

Are you starting to see the whole picture? Can you see now that there is more to salvation than by believing alone or by faith alone?

Baptism becomes the answer of a good conscience towards God, because the remission of our sins happens through baptism! Acts 2:38 (KJV) Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Christ **FOR the remission of sins**, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. So, we receive two things during water baptism. We receive remission for our past sins, and we also receive the receive the indwelling of the Holy Ghost.
Christ's sacrifice on the cross was for the remission of our sins.
Mat 26:28. For sins that are **past (not future)** through the forbearance of God. **(Not to be confused with forgiveness of sins). Rom 3:25.**

Once remission of sins is given, God will not remember them anymore. **Heb 10:17-18.**
So, without remission of sins, there is NO salvation!
But your bible will NOT say remission of sins, it will say, "forgiveness" which is different! We will talk about this later!

Remember 1 Tim 3:9 (KJV) Holding the mystery of the **faith** in a pure conscience?

Because of the above scriptures, now we must look into faith, and by doing this we can learn that we are NOT justified by faith alone: **James 2:24 (KJV)** Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only. **Also found in, James 2:17-18, James 2:20, James 2:26. In this verse we also come to the realization that we must do good works so we can be justified, and we are not talking about the works of the law!** Scripture tells us that we have good works, like works meet for repentance **Acts 26:20,** and the work of Faith **1 Thess 1:3** or even doing the work of an evangelist **2 Tim 4:5.**

Now think about this verse: Luke 13:23-24 (KJV) Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved? And he said unto them, Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.

"Many will seek and shall not be able".
This is mostly due to blindness and lack of Godly knowledge in the word of God.
It is due to lies and indoctrination. It is brought by Satan through unbiblical teachings by our family members, friends, pastors, ancestors, and their customs.
And we are at fault because we allow it, by not studying, questioning, and verifying those doctrines with the Holy Scriptures!

Pastors nowadays are **NOT** teaching you that **Salvation** is directly connected to believing, repentance, Confessing Christ, faith,

baptism, remission of sins, conversion, grace, and even good works. And if any of those are missing, you will NOT enter the Kingdom of Heaven.
Those Pastors are **NOT** following the Apostle's doctrine, which was left for us to follow by Christ Himself! They are just following a common salvation plan, which is not of the faith of Christ!

We must understand that God will give us His salvation **AS LONG AS** and **IF** we are obedient!
Christ told us in **Luke 4:4 (KJV)** "man shall not live by bread alone, **but by every word of God**."
But your bible does not tell you "**But by every word of God** ", or does it? (Would you care to verify that?))
So, believing does save us; **IF** or **AS LONG AS** we repent, are baptized, receive remission of sins, convert, etc.

Scripture even shows us that some **DISCIPLES (Not just believers)** were baptized twice. **A second time, much later after Christ ascended to heaven!**
Acts 19:2-6 (KJV) He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, we have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. And he said unto them, unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ. When they heard this, **they were baptized in the name of the Lord Christ**. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.

Another question some people may raise is. "Why was Christ baptized, if baptism is for the remission of sins. Christ had no sin to be forgiven. In other words, Christ had no need to receive remission of any sins!"
Christ's baptism was to show us how it must be done **AND** was also done for the receiving of the Holy Ghost! **Acts 2:38 (KJV)**

Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Christ for the remission of sins, **and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.**

Look at what happened after Christ was baptized! Matthew 3:16 (KJV) And Christ, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: (**He received the Holy Ghost!)**

Remember the story of the disciples in Acts 19 when they were baptized for a second time? They received the Holy Ghost!
So, for us as sinners, we must be baptized for the remission of our sins and for the indwelling of the Holy Ghost!

Salvation is a gift from God. But even though salvation is a gift from God, He has laid down certain conditions upon which he will give it. There is nothing that we can do to merit salvation. Whether it be believing in Christ, doing the works of God, or being baptized, we can never "earn our salvation". The only way we can show our faith in Christ is if we are willing to accept and obey what He says. But it is after all the requirements are met, that God has chosen to impart his wonderful grace of salvation to us as a willing believer.
Ok, so far so good. **But what about good works?**
Let us test these 2 theories:
1- A man says he believes, has faith, repented, and was even baptized. Oh, and prayed the prayer, yet the ONLY thing he lacks are good works. To sum it up, he does not do any works meet for repentance. His faith is questionable because of the lack of good works.
Is he saved even though he does no good works?
Please answer "Yes" or "No," and briefly explain why you stand on that answer.

2- There is a man that denies professing God, is disobedient to God, is abominable (detestable) in the eyes of God and is not pure unto every good work. The question is will God give this man salvation if he continues being disobedient, abominable (detestable) to God and is not pure unto every good work of God?

Please answer "Yes" or "No," and briefly explain why you stand on that answer.

This page has been intentionally filled.

Before turning the page, stop and answer the questions that were just presented. Use the blank spaces to write down what you truly believe and why.

Do not skip this step.

Many people read answers too quickly and end up agreeing with what they see without ever discovering what they actually believed before examining the Scriptures. When this happens, the mind simply adjusts to the new information without honestly testing itself.

This exercise is meant to prevent that.
Writing your answer forces you to examine your own understanding first. It reveals whether your beliefs are truly grounded in the Word of God or whether they have come from tradition, assumption, or something you have never personally tested.

Be honest. Write what you believe right now.

After you have written your answer, continue reading and compare it carefully with the Scriptures that follow. If your answer agrees with the Word of God, then you will have strengthened your confidence in truth. But if it does not, then you have discovered something important that deserves careful attention.

Do not be afraid of that discovery. Truth always welcomes examination.

Take your time. Think carefully. Write your answers before continuing.
"Prove all things; hold fast that which is good."
1 Thessalonians 5:21

Both answers are NO. They are both the same person!

What happens if we do not do good works?
Titus 1:16 (KJV) They profess that they know God; but in works they **deny him**, **being abominable**, and **disobedient**, and **unto every good work reprobate**.

You see, Peter was doing lots of **good works**, (not to be confused with the works of the law) yet we have already established and biblically proven that even after walking with Christ for over two years, Peter was not yet "saved".
And Paul the apostle believed, was converted, and repented on the Road to Damascus but was not yet "saved" because he had not received remission of sins nor the Holy Spirit, because he was missing baptism. Paul had also only been doing the works of the law.
Scriptures tells us that Paul was exceedingly worried about finishing his race until the day of his death! This was because, he wanted to make sure, he would make it into the kingdom of God.

So again, the only way we can show our Belief and faith in Christ is if we are willing to accept and obey EVERYTHING He says. **But it is after all the requirements are met, that God has chosen to impart his wonderful grace of salvation to us as a willing believer.**

Would you like to learn more? Because we can proof to you biblically that apart from Believing and faith, you also need to repent, confess Christ out loud, confess you are a sinner, have a good conscience, receive remission of your sins, be water baptized, laying of hands to receive the Holy Ghost, do good works, and lastly make it to the end to receive salvation and enter the kingdom of heaven!
Everything God requires is part of your conversion!
But do not trust us on this, we will provide you the biblical proof and all you need to do is verify it!

So, almost lastly, but not least important!
Before examining salvation further, we must address another serious issue: the reliability of the Bible translation being used.

Where are you getting your biblical knowledge from?

God said "My people are dying because of the lack of knowledge"

When it comes to the word of God, there are many counterfeit bibles in the world today.
Satan has filled this world with lies and indoctrination.
And sadly, because of the love for money, most preachers are just selling seats at church and are preaching damnation instead of salvation! And the few persons that truly are seeking Christ, most of them have learned their doctrines from those that teach unbiblical things. Others are learning and teaching from bibles that have wrong translations. They are learning doctrines of devils by using bibles inspired by devils!

Those counterfeit bibles have changed the meaning of words. And even gone as far to deleting entire verses. Some have over six thousand errors and changes in them. Counterfeit bibles will start their lies with Adam and Eve!
For example, the bible says: **Genesis 1:27** So **God created human beings in his own image**. **In the image of God he created them**; male and female he created them.

Other bibles say:
Genesis 1:27 So **God created mankind in his own image**, **in the image of God he created them**; male and female he created them.

They say that mankind, humankind, or humanity, meaning male and female were created in the image of God! And they reinforce it by saying "In the Image of God He created "**them**". If this is

correct, then women are equal to men. Women should have the same power in the Lord as men.
Paul should have NOT said anything against women speaking in the church nor anything about women not teaching men. And Christ should have chosen at least one female as an apostle to show equality!
Can anyone think about Christ being a male chauvinist?
C'mon 12 male apostles walked with Him. 13 if you include Judas, plus approximately 12 more male apostles after His ascension including Paul! Only males! And the bible does not show anyone complaining about it, especially women.

Sounds like there may be a big issue in understanding Paul or even a bigger problem that Christ only titled men as the highest rank in the 5-fold ministry!
Apostle, Prophet, evangelist, pastor, and teacher.

Think about it! This opens a new reality, Women Apostles, or women preaching and teaching to men, just like the apostles did! Women performing miracles and wonders just like the apostles. Wait, we do have that happening already in the FALSE church.

BUT is it biblical truth? Were women created in the image of God therefore making women equal to men, at least in a spiritual sense?

The answer is NO, it does NOT, and here is the biblical truth!
We already know that **your** bible most likely teaches that "Adam and Eve (both) were created in the image of God". **Gen 1:27.**

The Hebrew word used in **Genesis 1:26** and **27** is אָדָם.
Transliteration is 'âdâm. Defined as Adam as the first male. The first man.

So biblically speaking, Genesis 1:26-27 says:
And God said, Let us make **the first Male/Adam/Man** in our image, after our likeness: ….. **27** So God created **the first Male/Adam/Man** in his own image, in the image of God created he **him (Male/Man)**; male and female created he them.

Even though, God ends saying "Male and female created He them", this is true, God created them both, but He does NOT say "Male and female created He them both in His image".
So, we can clearly see that the teachings of those bibles are wrong and go completely against the Holy scriptures. Furthermore, we learn that the translators for those bibles have completely changed the Holy scriptures to a lie!

This is one of the reasons why there are so many denominations!
Satan has many lies, many denominations, many counterfeit bibles, and many workers of iniquity!
So, where are you learning your stuff from? Have you at least questioned your pastors' teachings and compared to any bible? Have you verified that you are truly on the road to salvation, or are you leaving it up to someone else's belief system?

Do you care to verify what your bible teaches? Here are a few more examples of what a counterfeit bible will teach or change!

Worship changed to **kneeling: Matt 9:18, Matt 18:26, Matt 20:20, Mark 5:6.**
Conversion changed to turning: Matt 18:3, Mark 4:12, Luke 22:32, John 12:40.
Words like Repentance have been omitted: **Matt 9:13, Mark 2:17.**
Words & verses about fasting have been omitted: **Matt 17:21, Mark 9:29.**
Words & verses about Salvation have been omitted: **Matt 18:11, Luke 4:4, Luke 9:56.**
Words & verses about Prayer have been omitted: **Matt 23:14, Mark 13:33.**

Complete verses omitted: Mark 7:16, Mark 9:44 & 46, Mark 15:28, Mark 16:9-20, Luke 17:36, John 5:4, John 6:69, Acts 8:37, Acts 9:5-6, Acts 15:34, Acts 24:17, Acts 28:19, Rom 16:24, John 5:7-8

There are bibles that have over 6'000 errors and omissions in them!
NIV, NLT, NKJV, NWT, ASV, ESV, NAB, NAB-RE, NASB, RSV, NEB, NASV, CEB, JB, NRSV, ETC.

So, I ask you again. Are you following a counterfeit plan of salvation, which is also known as a common plan of salvation? Or are you following the Apostle's doctrine? which is the faith given unto the Saints, also known as the Gospel of Christ!

Do you have one of those bibles? What has your bible omitted?
2 Timothy 3:16 (KJV) All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.
How can you learn "truth" when you read lies?

The problem,
Hosea 4:6 (KJV)
"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge…"

The answer:
2 Timothy 2:15 (KJV)
Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.
2 Timothy 3:16–17 (KJV)
All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.
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