



The Good News

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“What must I do to be saved?”

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We read throughout the New Testament of this question being asked, first of Jesus, and then of Peter and the apostles, and then of Paul in Philippi. However, in our modern religious society, the answers to this question are overly broad, vague, and sometimes contradictory. So, what must I do to be saved?

1) I must believe that Jesus is the Christ the Son of God. In **Acts 8:37**, after Philip had taught the Ethiopian eunuch regarding Jesus, the eunuch asked Philip what hindered him from being baptized. Philip replied that if he believed with all his heart he may, and the eunuch said that he believed that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. We learn that an individual must know and believe that Jesus is the Son of God, and consequently that it is He to whom we must go for salvation, as Peter tells the Jewish elders in **Acts 4:12** that there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.

2) I must repent of my sins and previous way of life. In **Acts 3:19**, we find that repentance is a necessary pre-requisite for sins being blotted out. Paul says in **Acts 17:30** that God commands all men everywhere to repent, especially considering that all have “*fallen short of the glory of God*” (**Rom. 3:23**). In **II Cor. 7:10**, we are told that “*godly sorrow works repentance to salvation*” What we learn is that repentance, or changing one’s ways and mindset, is necessary to be saved.

3) I must confess Jesus before men. We are told in **Rom. 10:10** that “*For with the heart, man believes unto righteousness; and with the mouth, confession is made unto salvation.*” So what are we to confess? “*...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*”. This is not the

end of what must be done for salvation, but I learn that to obtain salvation I must confess that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. (See also the Ethiopian eunuch-**Acts 8:37ff**)

4) I must be immersed in water, aka baptized. Many in the religious world believe that once you accept Jesus into your heart your sins are taken away, and baptism is simply an outward sign of an inward grace. They do not believe that baptism saves a person. Yet, **I Peter 3:21** tells us that it is baptism that saves us, not just accepting Jesus into our heart. The passage mentioned earlier (**Acts 8:37ff**) concerning the Ethiopian eunuch also reveals baptism as being essential. In **Acts 2:38**, we see Peter commanding baptism for the remission (dismissal or release) of sins. It is this action that removes sins. In **Acts 8:12**, we find the Samaritans believing Philip concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ and then they were baptized. The teaching about the kingdom (or rule) of God would of necessity include Jesus’ body, the church, for those in the church are under His rule. Concerning the name of Christ would include Jesus as the Son of God, and what He did for us. The fact that they were then baptized tells us two things: that baptism was also preached, and it wasn’t enough to just believe and accept Jesus into their hearts, for they had already done this. Finally, **Rom. 6:1-5** teaches us that after being baptized, we must “*walk in newness of life*”.

Consider the state of your soul today and ask yourself if you need to be baptized into the church that is Christ’s, receiving the hope of salvation before it is everlastingly too late.