

What Must I Do to Be Saved?

INTRODUCTION

- A. The most important question ever to be asked is, “What must I do to be saved?”
 - 1. The question was asked three different times in Acts.
 - a. After Peter convicted the crowd at Pentecost of killing the Messiah, they asked, “Men and brethren, what shall we do?” (Acts 2:37).
 - b. After the great earthquake that occurred in Philippi, the jailer asked Paul and Silas, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” (Acts 16:30).
 - c. When the Lord appeared to Saul of Tarsus, he asked the Lord, “What shall I do, Lord?” (Acts 22:10).
 - 2. Each time different responses were given because the individuals were at different places in their obedience.
- C. The question implies that:
 - 1. There is something to do.
 - a. Some groups want us to believe that there isn’t anything to do to be saved.
 - b. However, the question we are examining this morning implies there is something which must be done.
 - 2. That man is lost.
 - a. Those who are outside of Christ have no hope (Eph. 2:12).
 - b. Those who are outside of Christ have been separated from God because of their sins (Is 59:2).
- D. This morning, we want to examine the Scriptures and answer the question, “What must I do to be saved?”

WE MUST BELIEVE

- A. Believing is essential to salvation.
 - 1. Paul and Silas told the Philippian jailer, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved” (Acts 16:1).
 - 2. “He who believes and is baptized will be saved” (Mk. 16:16).
 - 3. “Whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved. How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed?” (Rom. 10:13-14).
- B. We must believe:
 - 1. That God is (Heb. 11:6).
 - 2. That Jesus is the divine Son of God—“If you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins” (Jn. 8:24).
 - a. God revealed himself to Moses as “I AM” (Ex. 3:14).
 - b. Here, Jesus literally says, “Unless you believe that I am, you will die in your sins.”
 - c. Jesus here claims to be divine and claims that unless we believe that we will die in our sins.
- C. Although faith is necessary for salvation, one cannot be saved by faith only.
 - 1. “Faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead” (Js. 2:17).
 - 2. “A man is justified by works, and not by faith only” (Js. 2:24).
- D. Do you believe?

WE MUST REPENT

- A. Repentance is essential to salvation.
 - 1. When the multitude at Pentecost asked Peter and the other apostles what they should do, Peter replied, “Repent, and be baptized” (Acts 2:38).
 - 2. “Unless you repent you will all likewise perish” (Lk. 13:3, 5).
 - 3. “Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out” (Acts 3:19)
 - 4. God “now commands all men everywhere to repent” (Acts 17:30).
- B. Repentance involves:
 - 1. Godly sorrow—“Godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation (2 Cor. 7:10).
 - a. Godly sorrow is regretting that we’ve violated God’s commands,
 - b. This leads us toward repentance; by itself, it is not repentance.
 - 2. Changing our actions—When John the Baptist saw the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to him for baptism, he told them, “Bear fruits worthy of repentance” (Mt. 3:7-8).
 - a. “Fruits of repentance” show that we’ve repented, this is the change in actions that repentance brings.
 - b. Unless we change our actions, repentance is not complete.

- C. Ambrose of Milan said, "True repentance is to cease from sin."
- D. Have you repented of your sins?

WE MUST CONFESS OUR FAITH

- A. Confession is essential to salvation.
 - 1. Mt. 10:32-33.
 - 2. The Ethiopian eunuch told Philip, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God" (Acts 8:37).
 - 3. Rom. 10:9-10.
 - 4. Timothy "confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses" (1 Tim. 6:12).
- B. Peter made this same confession (Mt. 16:16).
 - 1. Jesus blessed Peter for making this confession (v. 17).
 - 2. God will save us if we make the same confession.

WE MUST BE BAPTIZED

- A. Baptism is essential to salvation.
 - 1. "He who believes and is baptized will be saved" (Mk. 16:16).
 - 2. "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins" (Acts 2:38).
 - 3. "Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord" (Acts 22:16).
 - 4. "There is also an antitype which now saves us--baptism" (1 Pet. 3:21).
- B. Some want us to believe that baptism isn't essential.
 - 1. They say one can be saved by praying and then can be baptized later.
 - 2. Yet, Saul still had his sins after praying for three days (Acts 22:16; Acts 9:9-11).
 - 3. Acts 2:38 says that baptism is "for the remission of sins."
 - a. Some tell us that "for" means "because of;" the meaning of the text would then be that we should be baptized because our sins are already forgiven.
 - b. Jesus gave his blood for many "for the remission of sins" (Mt. 26:28).
 - c. If baptism isn't essential to salvation, neither is Jesus' death.
- C. If one has been improperly baptized, he needs to be baptized biblically (Acts 19:1-5).
 - 1. Paul encountered some disciples who had been baptized with John's baptism.
 - 2. They had not been baptized "in the name of the Lord Jesus."
 - 3. Being baptized "in the name of the Lord Jesus" means by his authority, under his direction.
 - 4. Those who claim to have been saved before baptism have not been baptized the way the New Testament teaches; they need to be baptized again:
- D. Baptism is immersion.
 - 1. That's what the Greek term means.
 - 2. When Philip baptized the eunuch, they both went down into the water (Acts 8:38).

CONCLUSION

- A. Once we've obeyed the Lord in baptism, we need to be faithful.
 - 1. "Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life" (Rev. 2:10).
 - 2. When Simon fell into sin after becoming a Christian, he was told to repent and pray (Acts 8:18-22).
 - a. Simon attempted to buy the miraculous measure of the Holy Spirit.
 - b. Simon's heart was not right before God; he was told to repent and pray.
- B. Becoming a Christian is urgent.
 - 1. Ananias asked Saul, "And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized" (Acts 22:16).
 - 2. Why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized.