

What must I do to be Saved?

This question was posed by a hardened Roman gaol-keeper. The answer from the apostle Paul was *Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved* (Acts 16:30).

In another place Paul said: *Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out* (Acts 3:19)

Jesus Himself said: *The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.* (Mark 1:15)

These two things are necessary if you are to be saved, if you are to have a place in the kingdom of God.

- Repent of your sins, and
- Have faith in Jesus Christ as your Saviour.

Repent means to turn around from rebelling against God and turn to Him. **Having faith** is to trust Jesus Christ as your Saviour from sin and its consequences. If you do both these things with a sincere heart, which shows itself in the way you live, you will be saved.

Why do you need to be saved? Though it is not popular to talk about it, the Bible clearly teaches that all people, including you, are facing God's judgement because of sin. Jesus said: *Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth; those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.* (John 5:28,29) And the Bible tells us that the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23). The justice of God demands that sin is punished.

The fearful truth is that no person has done good – we all sin continually. We read that *all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God* (Romans 3:23), and that *there is none righteous, no, not one* Romans 3:10

So, the Bible teaches that all people are sinners - but your own experience also testifies to it. As you consider your own life and the world around you, you must admit that sin and wickedness abounds, even in your own life. Consider again the words of Jesus: *You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.' But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment.* (Matthew 5:21-22) This is the standard that Christ sets - perfect holiness in order to enter the kingdom of heaven.

If this is the case, then no one can be saved. Since everyone is a sinner, all will be condemned. What hope is there?

But Paul said "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved....". There IS hope.

This hope is that Jesus Christ died to pay the penalty for sin. He took the wages of sin - death. When He was crucified on the cross, He endured the wrath of God, and took upon

Himself the judgement due to sinners. He lived a life without any sin, yet died an agonizing death as judgement for sin. And He rose again from the grave, demonstrating His power over death and sin.

There is salvation. And it is freely offered by Christ to all. Jesus said: *Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.* (Matthew 11:28). He offers this salvation.

What must you do to be saved? Repent, and believe the Gospel. **Repent** of your sin, confessing to God that you fall short of His holiness. Turn from that sin to the Lord Jesus Christ. **Believe** that Christ gave His life for you to pay the penalty for your sin. Believe the Scriptures - for it is written:

...whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. 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. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. John 3:15-19

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