

Salvation According to the Bible

Introduction

Nothing is more important than the salvation of your soul. Jesus asked,

"For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul?" (Mark 8:36, NASB)

The Bible teaches that salvation is found only in Jesus Christ. It is not based upon human tradition, denominational doctrine, or personal feelings. God has revealed exactly how people are saved, and because He loves us, He wants everyone to understand His plan.

Why Do We Need Salvation?

Every accountable person has sinned.

Romans 3:23 – "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

Sin separates us from God.

Isaiah 59:2 – "But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God."

The consequence of sin is eternal death.

Romans 6:23 – "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Without God's grace, no one could be saved.

Jesus Is the Only Savior

God sent His Son to die for our sins.

John 3:16

Jesus willingly shed His blood on the cross.

Romans 5:8

There is only one way to the Father.

John 14:6

Peter declared,

Acts 4:12 – "There is salvation in no one else."

Every person who is saved is saved because of Jesus Christ.

Salvation Is by Grace

Salvation begins with God's grace.

Ephesians 2:8-9

Grace means God provided what we could never earn.

Jesus paid the price for our sins with His own blood.

Grace does not eliminate obedience. Instead, grace teaches us to obey God.

Titus 2:11-12

Faith Is Essential

No one can please God without faith.

Hebrews 11:6

Faith comes from hearing God's Word.

Romans 10:17

Biblical faith is more than believing facts. True faith trusts Christ enough to obey Him.

Repentance Is Required

Repentance means changing one's mind and life by turning away from sin.

Jesus said,

Luke 13:3

"Unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."

God commands all people everywhere to repent.

Acts 17:30

Repentance is a change of heart that results in a changed life.

Confessing Christ

Before others, we must confess Jesus as the Son of God.

Romans 10:9-10

The Ethiopian official confessed,

Acts 8:37

"I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."

Jesus promised,

Matthew 10:32

"Everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess before My Father."

Baptism Is Part of God's Plan of Salvation

The New Testament consistently connects baptism with salvation.

Jesus commanded,

Mark 16:16

"He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved."

Peter preached on Pentecost,

Acts 2:38

"Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins."

Ananias told Saul,

Acts 22:16

"Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name."

Peter later wrote,

1 Peter 3:21

"Baptism now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ."

Baptism is not a work that earns salvation. Rather, it is the moment when a believer, trusting God's promise, submits to Christ in obedient faith.

What Happens in Baptism?

The Bible teaches that baptism is a burial in water.

Romans 6:3-4

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Colossians 2:12

At baptism:

- Our sins are forgiven.
 - We contact the saving blood of Christ.
 - We are united with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection.
 - We become children of God.
 - We receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
 - We are added by the Lord to His church.
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Salvation Is Not by Faith Alone

Many sincerely teach that faith alone saves.

However, the Bible says,

James 2:24

"You see that a man is justified by works and not by faith alone."

The only place the expression "faith alone" appears in Scripture is to deny that it saves.

Saving faith always obeys God.

The Lord Adds the Saved to His Church

After baptism on Pentecost,

Acts 2:47

"The Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved."

The Bible never teaches joining a denomination.

The Lord Himself adds every saved person to His church.

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Christ purchased the church with His own blood.

Acts 20:28

He is the head of the church.

Ephesians 1:22-23

Living Faithfully

Becoming a Christian is the beginning, not the end.

Christians are called to:

- Worship God faithfully.
- Study His Word.
- Pray continually.
- Serve others.
- Live holy lives.
- Remain faithful until death.

Jesus promised,

Revelation 2:10

"Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life."

Common Misunderstandings

"Is baptism a work?"

No. Baptism is an act of obedient faith. God performs the saving work.

Colossians 2:12

"Can infants be baptized?"

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The Bible teaches baptism follows personal faith and repentance. Infants have no personal sin and cannot believe or repent.

"What about the thief on the cross?"

The thief lived and died before the New Covenant became effective after Jesus' death (Hebrews 9:15-17). During His earthly ministry, Jesus personally forgave sins. After His resurrection, He commanded all people to believe and be baptized (Mark 16:16).

God's Simple Plan of Salvation

The New Testament repeatedly teaches these steps:

1. Hear the Gospel (Romans 10:17)
 2. Believe in Jesus Christ (John 8:24)
 3. Repent of your sins (Acts 17:30)
 4. Confess Christ before others (Romans 10:9-10)
 5. Be baptized by immersion for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38)
 6. Live faithfully until death (Revelation 2:10)
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Conclusion

God's plan of salvation is beautiful in its simplicity. Salvation is made possible only by the grace of God through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. We receive that gift through obedient faith as revealed in the New Testament.

If you have never obeyed the Gospel according to God's Word, why wait?

"Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name." (Acts 22:16)

The greatest decision you will ever make is to obey Christ and receive the eternal life He freely offers.