

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED ?

Int.

1. Aim: To give a simple explanation of the gospel plan of salvation and urge the people to obey.
2. The most important question in the world has only one right answer!
 - a. Acts 16:30 "sirs what must I do to be saved?"
 - b. The answer is not based on human opinion
 - c. But it is based on what the Bible teaches.
3. There are some questions which may have several possible answers to them
 - a. Where will I go to college?
 - b. What kind of career will I choose?
 - c. Whom will I marry?
4. But this question has only one correct answer !!

Discussion

I. HEARING

A. Rm. 10:17

1. Context - Rm. 10:13-15
2. Call on name of Lord - v. 13
3. Can't unless they believe - v. 14
4. Can't believe unless they have heard - v. 14
5. Can't hear until the gospel is preached - v. 15
6. Faith comes by hearing the gospel - v. 17

B. We must hear the gospel before we can ever expect to know what to do in order to be saved.

1. The reason Jesus commanded the disciples to "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature", was because He knew that people must hear the gospel in order to have an interest in it and to know what to do in order to be saved.
2. To take an interest in any kind of message, we must first hear the message.
3. In every case of conversion the people first heard the gospel, then they obeyed it.

C. Hearing the Gospel must come before faith in it.

1. That is plain common sense
2. A person could not believe in something of which they had not heard.
3. Rm. 10:14 "how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard?"

D. The gospel is God's power to save

1. Rm. 1:16
2. The word gospel means "good news"
3. The good news is Jesus Christ died in our place
4. He tasted [**experienced**] death for every man - Heb. 2:9
5. The hearing of the gospel message is the first step in God's plan of salvation.
6. Rom. 10:17

II. BELIEVE

- A. Heb. 11:6 "but without faith it is impossible to please him.."
1. Faith in God is essential, or required, before we can be saved.
 2. Many other passages teach this
 - a. Mk. 16:16
 - b. Jn.8:24 "I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am [he], ye shall die in your sins."
 - c. Jn. 3:16
- B. Faith is defined in Heb. 11:1 "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."
1. We have never seen God nor Christ in person, but we have the evidence in the Bible
 2. This evidence can produce faith
 3. We walk by faith, not by sight -- II Cor. 5:17
- C. There is only ONE FAITH - Body of Truth
1. Eph. 4:5 "One Lord, one faith, one baptism,"
 2. The world teaches there are many faith's and you can join the faith of your choice.
 3. The Bible does not teach this
 4. Jude 3 contend earnestly for the faith

D. Faith alone will not save

1. The Bible does not say "He that believeth only shall be saved".
2. Even though "faith only" is a popular doctrine today it is not found in the Bible
3. Jas. 2:17, Jas.2:24 teach that faith alone will not save a person
4. Gal.3:26-27 combines faith and baptism for the remission of sins. "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. 27. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ."

E. Faith

1. Comes from hearing the word - Rm. 10:17
2. Is essential - Heb. 11:6
3. But there is more to the plan of salvation

III. REPENTANCE

A. Lk. 13:3

1. Jesus taught the people of his day that they must repent or perish
2. Repent means to change one's mind because he feels sorry for the evil deeds done.

B. Repentance

1. Is a change of mind that results in a change of life
2. When we repent we are willing to leave the world of sin behind and enter into a state of holiness and Godly living.

C. Repentance is Not:

1. Feeling guilty for our sins.
 - a. Paul preached to Agrippa who was a sinful man
 - b. He realized he needed to change
 - c. Acts 26:28 --- almost "Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian."
 - d. But he did not repent and obey

2. Being AFRAID of God, and of death is not repentance
 - a. Paul preached to Felix who was a bad man
 - b. Acts 24:25 -he trembled with fear and terror
 - c. But he did not repent

D. Repentance is in the plan of salvation

1. Lk. 24:47-48 "And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. 48. And ye are witnesses of these things."
2. Acts 2:38 3:19 17:30

E. Repentance is important

1. If we do not repent we cannot be with Jesus
2. If we do not repent we shall perish

F. We must hear, believe and repent, but that is not all

IV. CONFESS

- A. Rom. 10:9-10 Confess = acknowledge
- B. Mt. 10:32
 - 1. We must be willing to confess him before men
 - 2. We should have courage to confess Christ, not only by mouth but by the life we live.
 - 3. The majority of the world has denied Christ
 - 4. Many of those who believe he is the son of God are not willing to confess Him before men and follow him
- C. We are to confess that Christ is the Son of God
 - 1. Bible Example - Acts 8:26-40
 - a. See here is water - why?
 - b. "If thou believest with all thine heart thou mayest."
 - c. "I Believe that Jesus Christ is the son of God."
 - d. He was then baptized into Christ.
 - 2. We are not to confess that "God for Christ's sake has pardoned our sins" even before we are baptized
 - a. That is the doctrine of men
 - b. That is not what the Eunuch confessed.
 - 3. Rm. 10:9-10 makes it clear what we are to confess
 - a. Mt. 16:3-18
 - b. Jesus asked his disciples whom "do men say that I the son of man am?"

- c. V. 14
- d. V. 16 Peter makes the confession "Thou art the Christ the Son of the Living God."

D. We make the confession not a testimony

- 1. Many religious groups have the person come down and tell about their experience or their testimony
- 2. There is not an example of such in the N.T.

E. All people will some day confess Christ

- 1. Rm. 14:11 "For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God."
- 2. Some day all people will confess
- 3. The Best time is now when it will profit us before we stand before him in judgement

F. Confession is a part of the plan of salvation.

V. BAPTISM

A. Acts 2:38

- 1. Baptism is essential to salvation just as the other things
- 2. Acts 2:37 - men and brethren "What shall we do?"
- 3. Peter's answer is repent and be baptized
- 4. Why? for the remission of sins

5. V. 41 - those who wanted to be saved, gladly received the word of God and were baptized

B. Baptism puts one into Christ

1. I I Cor. 5:17 "Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away: behold, all things are become new."
2. How do we get into Christ?
 - a. Gal. 3:26-27
 - b. Rm. 6:3-5

C. Baptism is a Burial - D.B.R.

1. It is a burial in water
2. It is not sprinkling or pouring
3. Rm. 6:4

D. Our sins are not forgiven until we are baptized

1. Some people like to think that our sins can be forgiven even if we have not been baptized
2. I Pet. 3:21
3. Christ had commanded it in Mk. 16:16 B + B = S

E. Baptism is an important step just like all the other steps in the plan of salvation

1. It is not more important
2. It is not unimportant
3. It is equally important

VI. HOW DOES THE PLAN OF SALVATION APPLY TO CHRISTIANS ?

A. Hearing

1. We keep on hearing the Bible
2. We must read and study the Bible all of our life.

B. Believe

1. We keep on believing
2. Our faith must continue - if it does not it will die.
3. We can loose our faith if we do not feed it.

C. Repent

1. We must stay turned away from sin.
2. We are to leave the world of sin and live in righteousness.
3. Repentance is a way of life - we are still living a changed life because of a changed mind.

D. Confession

1. We keep on confessing our faith that Christ is the Son of God.
2. Rom. 1:16 we must not be ashamed of Christ

E. Baptism

1. Remember we were purged - cleansed from our sin
2. 2 Pet. 1:9
3. Only baptized once, but remember the effect of it so we will not turn back.

CONCLUSION

1. Walk Anew
 - a. Rm. 6:4
 - b. This means we are now a Christian - that old man of sin is dead and we are a new being
2. The Lord Adds
 - a. Acts 2:47 - the Lord Does the adding
 - b. When we obey the commands the Lord then adds us
 - c. It is not correct to say "I joined the church."
3. III. "I want to be baptized"
4. III. "A Christian for 15 hours"

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