

Biblical Watershed Issues (Part 3): Salvation (Clear Gospel)

Salvation: What Does It Take to Be Saved?

1. Do I Have to Be Baptized To Be Saved?

Mark 16:16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

Acts 22:16 'And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.' (cf. Rom 6:3; 1 Pet 3:20-21)

2. Do I Have to Confess Something to Be Saved?

Matt 10:32 Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. (Lu 12:8)

Rom 10:9-10 that 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. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (cf. 1 John 2:23; 4:14)

3. Do I Have to Accept Jesus As Lord To Be Saved?

Rom 10:9-10 (see above)

4. Do I Need to Endure to the End to Be Saved?

Matt 10:22 And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved.

5. Do I Have to Receive Jesus to Be Saved?

John 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

6. Do I Have to Sorrow for Sins to Be Saved?

2 Cor 7:10 For godly sorrow produces repentance [leading] to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.

7. Do I Need to Open the Door of My Heart to Be Saved?

Rev 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

8. Do I Have to Repent to Be Saved?

Matt 3:2 and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" (cf. Mk 1:15)

Luke 13:3 "I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.

Acts 17:30 "Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, (cf. 2:28; 3:19; 26:20)

9. Do I Have to Pray to Be Saved?

Luke 18:13 "And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise *his* eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' (cf. 23:42)

Rom 10:13 For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."

Why All the Confusion About Salvation?

1. Lack of Understanding of Bible Terminology

a. Using Different Terms for the Same Experience: **SAVED**

- Be Born Again
- Be Saved
- Become a Believer
- Become a Christian
- Become Part of God's Family
- Get Saved

b. Confusing Synonyms: **HAVE FAITH – BELIEVE – TRUST**

c. Repeating Unclear / Inaccurate Phrases: **HOW MANY STEPS?**

- Accept Jesus as your personal Savior.
- Acknowledge that you are a sinner.
- Ask God to forgive you/your sins.
- Ask Jesus into your heart.
- Ask Jesus to save you.
- Be sorry for your sins.
- Believe in God.
- Believe in Jesus.
- Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Believe that Jesus died for your sins.
- Call upon the name of the Lord.
- Confess your sins.
- Open the door of your heart.
- Put your trust in God.
- Receive Jesus as your Savior.
- Repent of your sins.
- Surrender your heart to the Lord.
- Surrender your life to the Lord.
- Trust the Lord to save you.
- Etc.

2. Poor Bible Study Methods and Practices

a. Using Curriculum Without Reviewing It for Accuracy

b. Being Sloppy with Terms (you think & study with words)

c. Drawing Conclusions Before Studying Thoroughly

d. Ignoring the Immediate Context (verses next to)

e. Failing to Compare the Rest Of Scripture

f. Accepting Seeming Contradictions as Additional Steps or Conditions (do you add all the passages up, then?)

g. Choosing Unclear Verses Over Clear Verses

h. Forgetting the Bible Is the Final Authority, Not Men's Teachings

How Is One Saved?: Build on **CLEAR** Passages...

John 3:16-18 "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. ¹⁷ "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. ¹⁸ "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.

John 3:36 "He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

Acts 16:30-31 And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" ³¹ So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household."

Rom. 4:5 But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness,