

What do I need to do to have salvation?

In previous lessons we have discussed if God exists and if the Bible is from God. I hope you have come to the conclusion that He does exist and that indeed the Bible does come from Him. So, what is next? How does one build on this knowledge? Hopefully in this lesson you will come to see that we all need salvation from sin and that God has provided it for us if we are willing to be obedient to His will.

Sin separates from God

Isaiah 59:2 “But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear” and **Romans 3:23** “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” We are all guilty of falling prey to sin in our lives and because of this we are separated from God.

Romans 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” and **Roman 5:8** “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” You and I have all sinned and separated ourselves from God because of our own actions. Sadly, if we do not correct our lives and make them right with God there can only be one outcome, being eternally lost. However, God through Jesus has given us a way to be saved if we are willing to take it.

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” and **1 Peter 2: 24-25** “Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed. For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls” So that we might be saved Jesus died on the cross for our sins. Jesus did not have to do this but out of love for us Christ was willing to make this great sacrifice.

Acts 2:37 “Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?” So now knowing that sin separates us from God which leads to eternal condemnation and that Jesus died on the cross for us so we can be saved, what do we do?

What must I do to be saved?

Hebrews 5:9 “And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him” Fortunately, God through his Bible tells us what we must do to be saved. The following are the steps God has laid out for us to take if we want eternal salvation. We must obey if we want salvation. If you decide you want salvation it is your choice but the disobedient need not expect salvation. So, what are the steps we must take if we want to be saved?

Romans 10:17 “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” You must hear the word of God. It would be impossible to come to understand something you have never heard of and don't know anything about so hearing is the place to start.

John 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” and **Hebrews 11:6** “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him” You must believe Jesus is the son of God and died for our sins on the cross as well as that He has risen from the dead. If you don’t believe in something why follow it? You must have faith in God or there is simply no point in going any further down this road.

Acts 2:38 “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost” You must repent of your sins and turn from them to start a new life following after Christ. To repent means realizing that something is wrong and doing one’s best to not repeat the same errors. It means to stop living a worldly sinful life and turn to life a life pleasing to God. It does not mean you will be perfect and never stumble but it does mean you are putting great effort into changing.

Romans 10:9 “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved” You must confess that Jesus is the son of God. This is a wonderful start after you have completed these steps but you are not finished. Some will teach that the next step, baptism, is not necessary but the Bible says it is.

Mark 16:16 “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned” and **Romans 6: 3-4** “Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life” You must be baptized. Don’t forget the words “and is” because you must do both, falling short leads to condemnation. Not following through with baptism leads to condemnation not salvation. These are the steps of salvation to become a Christian and walking in a new life.

Galatians 5:22-24 “ But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.” Once you become a Christian you have only just started your new life. This is the start of a lifetime of growing in knowledge about Jesus and becoming a stronger Christian

Fortunately, God does not only give us His Bible so we can know how we can lead a life that pleases Him and guides us to salvation, but He also created the church so that we do not have to be alone in the struggle.

Romans 6:3-6 “Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.” and **Galatians 3:26-27** “For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been

baptized into Christ have put on Christ” When one makes the choice to change their lives and become a Christian they are baptized into Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:13 “For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit” Upon being baptized one becomes a member of Christ’s spiritual, (not literal), body. Baptism puts you in Christ’s body the church.

Ephesians 1:22-23 “And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all” and **Colossians 1:18** “And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence” The church is Christ’s body and He is its head or leader.

Matthew 16:16-18 “And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” After all Christ built the church.

Galatians 3:13-15 “Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. Brethren, I speak after the manner of men; Though it be but a man's covenant, yet if it be confirmed, no man disannulleth, or addeth thereto” and **Acts 20:28** “Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood” He bought it with His own blood.

Acts 2:47 “Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved” Jesus adds you to His church, not any man.

Ephesians 4:4-6 “There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all” and **1 Corinthians 12:12** “For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ” The church is a blessing Christians can share with each other and help to strengthen and comfort one another in both good times and difficult times. However, it is very important to understand this is only one church not several hundred. There is one body of Christ with many members, (Christians), making up that one body.

Colossians 1:18 “And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence” Just as the human body has one head, the church has only one head and that is Christ not any man or woman.

1 Corinthians 1:12-15 “Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ. Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were

ye baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you, but Crispus and Gaius; Lest any should say that I had baptized in mine own name” Christ is not divided into different factions or divisions and His body, (or church), does not wear the name of any man.

Acts 11:26 “And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch”, Acts 26: 28. “Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian”, **1 Peter 4:16** “Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf” , Finally, Romans 16:16 “Salute one another with an holy kiss. The churches of Christ salute you” Christ’s body wears His name.

Revelation 2:10 “Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life” We must always remember that a home in Heaven is the goal

Conclusion

Hopefully this study has been able to walk you through the process of becoming a Christian as well as understanding the importance of Christ’s church which is the only body in which one can be saved.