

Saved – Becoming a Christian

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There are many important questions in a person's life. Questions about schools, careers, treatment for illness and retirement. Many other similar questions are often contemplated, researched, prayed over and carefully considered.

However, the most important question of any person's life is **"WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED"**? This is a question that every person has to answer. This question deserves more research, more contemplation, more care than all others combined. This one question will determine each person's soul for eternity.

God wrote down the instructions about how to be saved to help each one get it right. We have these important instructions in the Holy Bible. Unfortunately, man in his own desires, thoughts and beliefs want to "improve" on God's instructions. Some have said that babies should be baptized that they might be saved. Others have said that God will save all people and none will be lost. Some have come up with a **"sinners prayer"** whereby salvation is said to be had. But what does the infallible guide, the Bible, say about what man is to do to be saved?

This question was asked by Saul when Jesus appeared to him on the road to Damascus (**Acts 9**). Saul asked the Lord, "What will you have me to do?" Jesus said, Arise, and go into the city, and "it shall be told what you must do". Saul did not eat or drink for three days and nights. He was in repented and he prayed. Did any of these things save him? NO! What was Saul to do? What Jesus said to do! "He that believes and is baptized shall be saved" (**Mark16:16**). Why be baptized? What is Baptism for? Note what was said to Saul, "Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord" (**Acts 22:16**).

Now we have the answer to the question, "What must I do to be saved." Jesus told Saul to go into the city and it will be told to you "What you must do" (**Acts 9:5-7**) This answer was given by Jesus himself. This answer was given by Jesus Himself. Saul was baptized and his sins were washed away (**Acts 22:16**).

We pray that you use this short narrative to become aware of what being saved is all about. What does it mean? Why it is required of you. What you need to do to be saved. What it means for your eternity.

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Freedom

All of us enjoy the freedom that we have in this great country. So much so, that we take our freedoms for granted. We are free to travel, to work where we choose and to live where we choose. However, the most important freedom our country affords us is to worship how and where we choose.

Because, in the beginning, God made us free moral agents. God gave us the right to choose. We may make the wrong choices. Adam and Eve, King David, even the apostle Peter did. Many people down through history and today make bad choices. We all make bad choices at times. But those choices can be overcome if we listen to the Lord. Jesus said, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth." (**Matthew 28:18**)

Joshua 24:15 Joshua said "Choose you this day whom you will serve..." In order for us to truly have freedom, we must make the right choices. We will either be following God or Satan. There is no middle ground.

Where is freedom found? We have many freedoms in America, but the most important freedom is not found in the laws of America or in any other countries of this world.

Real freedom is found in Christ Jesus---the Son of God. Jesus said in **John 8:32**, "You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." Jesus also said in **John 8:36** "If the Son therefore shall make you free, you shall be free indeed."

Free from What?

So, from what are we made free? For what purpose did Jesus come into the world? Because Jesus came into the world to give Himself (His life) for the sins of all the people for all times, to make us free from sin **Matthew 1:21**. Jesus gave a plan for the whole world, to be free from sin.

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Just Four things:

- 1) You **must believe and confess** that Jesus is the son of God. **John 8:24** Jesus said you must *believe* that He is the Christ the Son of the living God. **Matthew 10:32-33, Acts 8:36-37** further tells us to *confess* that Jesus is God's son.
- 2) **Luke 13:3** Jesus said you **must repent** of your sins.
- 3) **Mark 16:16** Jesus said you **must be baptized**.
- 4) Jesus expects us to **live faithfully** the rest of our days (**1 John 1:2**)

Because, it is in the act of baptism that our sins are washed away, and we become new creatures in Christ **2 Corinthians 5:17**. In **Acts 22:16** Paul was told to "arise and be baptized and wash away your sins..."

Therefore, when one obeys the teachings of Jesus Christ, you can be sure you have freedom from sin and when one is free from sin he is now a child in the family of God. A child of God? YES! (**John 1:11-12**) Those on Pentecost were told to repent and be baptized for the remission of sin. They did so, and the Lord added them to His church. **Acts 2:47**.

Baptized – Old Things are New Again

It is written in **2 Corinthians 5:17** "Therefore if man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

The words Paul used in this passage, "be in Christ," in what Paul also used in **Romans 6:3-4**, and that was being baptized into Christ.

Paul used the phrase, "a new creature," in this verse. A new creature means that that person is no longer living in sin, but now is living in Christ.

Paul also stated that "old things are passed away." This is the result of being obedient to the teachings of Christ, who said that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name beginning in Jerusalem. **Luke 24:47**. Peter preached that sermon as recorded in **Acts 2:38**, when the people were told to repent and be baptized into Christ for the remission of sins. When one is baptized into Christ for the remission of sins, then "old things are passed away." The Lord adds us to the church, just like in Acts 2:47.

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Everything we do after our baptism is done as a child of God, to please God, to grow as a Christian (**1 Peter 1:22 & 2:1-3**) because we know how much God loves us.

Good News

Resurrection from death is a fundamental teaching of the Gospel. Indeed, that's "good news." Therefore, that is HOPE. Our end is not found in our tomb! There is life, life eternal. If the Christian doctrine would bring people hope only for this life, then Christians would be the most pitiable people in the world, but there is more. **1 Corinthians 15:19**. Paul is convinced: "Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting?" **1 Corinthians 15:54-55**. Christ said: "For the hour is coming, in which all that are in graves shall hear His voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation" **John 5:26-29**. Christ Himself gave us an example of resurrection.

Conclusion

Becoming a Christian, Saved, Born Again, In Christ, or becoming a new creature all talk about salvation.

- 1) You **must believe and confess** that Jesus is the son of God. **John 8:24** Jesus said you must *believe* that He is the Christ the Son of the living God. **Matthew 10:32-33, Acts 8:36-37** further tells us to *confess* that Jesus is God's son.
- 2) **Luke 13:3** Jesus said you **must repent** of your sins.
- 3) **Mark 16:16** Jesus said you **must be baptized**.
- 4) **Live faithfully unto death**.

As a new creature, a Christian, we will live faithfully unto death and then arise to live forever with God. This is the God who loves you, who wants you to be his child. You can become the child of a King!

Won't you heed His word?