

Know Your Bible

CORRESPONDENCE COURSE

LESSON III

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

Here is the most important question of your life! You want to go to heaven, don't you? Then you must have your sins forgiven--you must be saved.

The word "save" means "to rescue from danger." In lesson 2 we found that "all have sinned." The sinner is in danger because if he dies he will go to hell!

The sinner must be "rescued" from this danger. God sent Jesus to die on the cross to save the sinner. When the blood of Jesus takes away your sins, you are "saved." When your sins are taken away, you are with God and on the way to heaven. If you continue to be with God, then you will go to heaven when you die.

The question, "What must I do to be saved?", is answered in a different way by different churches. This is bad, because you can be confused by the different answers. You may find it hard to know the truth. But you can know how to be saved if you will listen to the New Testament. In this lesson we will try to help you see what the New Testament says you must do in order to be saved. We ask you to study very carefully, because THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT QUESTION OF YOUR LIFE!

1) What does "save" mean?

2) What will happen to the sinner if he dies without being saved?

3) Where can you find out how to be saved?

I. SOME IMPORTANT BEGINNING TRUTHS

A. Man cannot know how to save himself unless God tells him. Jeremiah wrote long ago, "**It is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.**" ([Jeremiah 10:23](#)) No matter how much a man thinks, he cannot figure out what he must do. Only God knows how to save man. Unless God tells the sinner how to be saved, the sinner can never know.

B. **Man cannot earn his salvation.** When we work for a firm, we "earn" the money paid to us at the end of the month. But no man can work hard enough to earn his salvation. We cannot pay for our own sins! [Titus 3:5](#) says, "**Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost.**" "Works of righteousness" are works which earn salvation. There are no such things! You cannot be good enough to save yourself. Only Jesus was able to pay the price for your sins.

C. Since we cannot save ourselves, we must come to Jesus as the only Savior. "**I am the WAY, the TRUTH, and the LIFE: no man cometh to the Father, but by me**" ([John 14:6](#)).

D. We must do what God says! Saul said, "**What wilt Thou have me to do?**" ([Acts 9:6](#)) Many come to the Bible for God's answer, but then refuse to do it! Other people hear what God says to do, but they obey only the things which they think are good to do. They do not obey the rest of God's commands. We must do what God says--ALL that He says!

4) "It is not in that walketh to direct his "

5) "Not by of which we have done, but according to His He saved us."

6) is the way, the truth and the life.

7) Must man OBEY God's will in order to be saved?

THE GREAT COMMISSION

After Jesus was raised from the dead He gave special instructions to His apostles. These instructions are called "The Great Commission."

The books of Matthew, Mark and Luke tell us what Jesus said. Here are His words:

"**Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost**" ([Matthew 28:19](#)).

"**And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned**" ([Mark 16:15-16](#)).

"**And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in**

his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem" ([Luke 24:47](#)).

These verses tell us what Jesus requires:

[Matthew 28:19](#)--Teaching and Baptism.

[Mark 16:15,16](#)--Preaching, Believing, Baptism.

[Luke 24:47](#)--Preaching, Repentance, Remission of Sins.

Putting these things all together we see that Jesus requires the sinner to: 1) Hear the gospel, then 2) Believe the gospel, then 3) Repent of his sins, then 4) Be Baptized--so that he can receive the Remission of Sins (Be Saved.)

8) "He that and is shall be saved."

9) Is repentance necessary to salvation?

10) Should a man be baptized *before* or *after* he hears and believes the gospel?

II. ACTS--THE BOOK OF CONVERSIONS

Jesus gave the Great Commission just before He went back to heaven. The book of Acts continues the story and tells how the apostles obeyed Jesus by preaching the gospel as He said to do. And it tells the stories of many who believed and obeyed what the apostles taught. When a person became a Christian, he was "converted." The stories of these "conversions" show us clearly what these people did to become Christians.

In each story, the people did the same things. They listened to the preaching of the gospel, they believed the gospel, they repented of their sins, and they were baptized in order to be saved. The stories are interesting to read, and they teach us very clearly how we, too, can be saved. They answer the question, "What must I do to be saved?"

In this lesson we will study the stories of four conversions--The conversion of 3 000 on Pentecost, the conversion of the Ethiopian, of Saul, and of the Philippian Jailer. **You will gain the most from these stories if you will read them in your own Bible as we study this lesson.**

A. THE CONVERSION OF 3 000

Acts 2

Jesus told the apostles to stay in Jerusalem until they were baptized with the Holy Spirit ([Acts 1:4-5](#)). Then He went up to heaven while they watched Him.

A few days later was a Jewish feast day called "Pentecost." The apostles were together when the Holy Spirit came on them ([Acts 2:1-13](#)). A great number of people ran together when they heard the noise, and when they heard the apostles speaking many different languages, they began asking questions.

Peter and the apostles stood up, and Peter began preaching Christ to these people ([Acts 2:14-36](#)). In this great sermon Peter proved that Jesus had been raised from the dead. He finished the sermon by saying: **"Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ."** (v. 36)

The people listening were "pricked in their hearts." They now knew that the Jesus they put on the cross was the Son of God! In their sorrow they cried out, **"Men and brethren, what shall we do?"** (v. 37) This is the question we need to ask, also. "What shall we do to get rid of our sins?" The answer Peter gave to them was what Jesus commanded him to preach, and it is the answer to our question as well. When we hear what Peter said, we are hearing what we must do.

"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." ([Acts 2:38](#))

I ask the student of this course to study this verse very carefully. This is the answer of Peter, the apostle. It is the answer to the question, "What must we do?" It is the answer Jesus told Peter to give. It is the answer we need today!

You will remember that Jesus commanded the apostles to preach, and that those who believed, repented and were baptized would be saved (have remission of sins). Peter preached, then when the people believed, he told them to repent and to be baptized in order to receive the remission of sins. This is how they were saved. It is how YOU can be saved, too!

Some people say that there is nothing a man can do to save himself. They say that God must do everything. But Peter told the people, **"Save yourselves from this untoward generation."** (v. 40) **"Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls."** (v. 41) They did what they were told to do. They were baptized so that their sins would be forgiven.

11) Peter said, ", and be every one of you in the name of for the of sins."

12) Those that gladly received Peter's word were

13) Can we do something to save ourselves? (See v. 40)

B. THE CONVERSION OF THE ETHIOPIAN EUNUCH

[Acts 8:26-40](#)

Here we find an unusual man. He was the "minister of finance" of Ethiopia, a great country of that time. It was an African country, located south of Egypt. He was unusual because he was also religious. He went to Jerusalem, a very long way from Ethiopia, in order to worship God. He was a great man, a religious man--and an **unsaved** man.

God wanted to save him. An angel called Philip to go to the road where the eunuch's chariot would be. When Philip saw the chariot, the Spirit of the Lord told Philip to go to the chariot and there he heard the eunuch reading the Bible.

Philip asked the eunuch, "**Understandest thou what thou readest?**" ([Acts 8:30](#)) The he "**preached unto him Jesus.**" (v. 35) Then "**as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?**" (v. 36) This shows that Philip had preached the same things Peter preached. The eunuch wanted to be saved. He believed in Jesus and he wanted to be baptized to be saved.

"And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him." (v. 38)

Is this how YOU were baptized? When the eunuch was baptized both men went DOWN INTO the water (v. 39). In [Romans 6:4](#) Paul, the apostle, wrote: "**Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death.**" This is why BOTH went down into the water. This is the ONE BAPTISM ([Ephesians 4:5](#)) of the Bible. If you obey Jesus Christ, YOU will be buried in baptism!

TRUE OR FALSE QUESTIONS (Select the correct answer)

14) The eunuch was a religious man, therefore he was saved before Philip preached to him. True False

15) Philip preached Jesus to the eunuch. True False

16) Philip used the water the eunuch carried in the chariot and sprinkled that on the eunuch's head. True False

17) When the eunuch wanted to be baptized, Philip told him to wait until a more convenient time. True False

C. THE CONVERSION OF SAUL

[Acts 9:1-20](#); [Acts 22:1-16](#); [Acts 26:9-19](#)

What a wonderful story this is! The man who was killing Christians became a Christian! Saul of Tarsus became Paul the apostle. To get all the details of the story, read all three passages given above.

Saul was going to Damascus to find Christians and bring them back as prisoners to Jerusalem. Suddenly about noon a bright light shone around Saul and he fell to the ground. A voice from heaven spoke to him saying, **"Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?"** Saul answered, **"Who art thou, Lord?"** and the voice answered, "I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom thou persecutest." At once Saul said, **"What shall I do, Lord?"** (Acs 22:7-10)

Saul was asking the same question we need to ask. It was the question the Jews on Pentecost asked. "What shall I do Lord?"

Jesus did not tell him what to do to be saved. He said, **"Arise, and go into Damascus; and there it shall be told thee of all things which are appointed for thee to do."** (22:10) So Saul got up and was led (because he had been blinded) into Damascus. For three days he would not eat or drink and was praying to God.

Finally Jesus told him what to do. But he did this by telling a preacher named Ananias to go to Saul. When Ananias got to Saul he said, **"And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord."** (22:16) Saul was baptized immediately, before he ate any food (9:18-19). He was baptized immediately because he wanted his sins washed away.

NOTE: Saul STILL HAD HIS SINS when Ananias came to him. Saul was NOT saved on the road to Damascus. He was not saved until he was baptized and "washed away his sins." This is how the people on Pentecost were saved, and it is how the eunuch was saved. It is how YOU can be saved, also!

TRUE OR FALSE QUESTIONS (Select the correct answers)

18) There are three chapters in Acts which tell the story of Saul's conversion. True False

19) Jesus told Saul to go into Damascus in order to learn what to do to be saved. True False

20) Saul was saved outside Damascus as soon as he saw the heavenly vision. True False

21) Saul was not saved until he was baptized. True False

D. THE CONVERSION OF THE JAILER

[Acts 16:25-34](#)

Years later, Paul was preaching the gospel in the city of Philippi (northern Greece). He and Silas were beaten and put in prison on false charges. But they were not discouraged! They were singing praises to God in jail!

Then about midnight there was a great earthquake and all the doors of the prison were opened. The jailer woke up and supposed that all the prisoners would escape. He knew he would be killed if they escaped, so he drew his sword and was going to kill himself when Paul shouted, "**Do thyself no harm: for we are all here.**" (16:28)

The jailer "**fell down before Paul and Silas, and brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?**" (vs. 29-30)

Now notice what happened:

- a. Paul told him to believe in the Lord Jesus--v. 31
- b. They preached to word of the Lord to him and his family--v. 32
- c. The jailer and his family were baptized the same hour of the night--v.33
- d. They rejoiced, "believing in God with all his house."--v. 34

The jailer was not saved by faith **alone**. He obeyed the same commands the others did. When he believed, he obeyed in baptism. Only after he was baptized did he rejoice. Faith **alone** does not save. [James 2:20](#) says, "Faith without works is dead."

TRUE OR FALSE QUESTIONS (Select the correct answers)

22) Paul and Silas were beaten for doing bad things. True False

23) The jailer was saved by believing without doing anything else. True False

24) The jailer and his family decided to be baptized at a later time because it was late at night. True False

25) Faith without works is dead. True False

SUMMARY

The book of Acts was written to show how people became Christians. In this book we see how the Great Commission was carried out. In it we see exactly what the apostles told sinners to do to be saved. They said:

- 1. Believe in Christ--[Acts 16:31](#).**
- 2. Repent of sins--[Acts 2:38](#).**
- 3. Confess faith in Christ--[Acts 8:37](#); [Romans 10:10](#).**
- 4. Be baptized to wash away sins--[Acts 22:16](#).**

26) Do you think a person can be saved by just believing without being baptized?

27) Do you think baptism is necessary for salvation?

28) How long should a person wait before he obeys the Lord's commands?

MAY WE HELP YOU?

We want to help you to be saved. If your conversion is not the same as the conversions we have studied, you need to do what they did. We want to help you become a New Testament Christian. Let us hear from you.

Write here any Bible question you have:

First Name:

Last Name:

Email address (**You must enter this.**): [Privacy Policy](#)