

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

Text: Acts 16:30

INTRO: This is the most important question in life. Because life is short, death is certain; because of the beauty of heaven & the horror of hell, man should seek to be certain he has met the conditions of salvation.

The question implies that man is lost & in need of salvation.

At that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. (Ephesians 2:12).

I. WHAT DO WE MEAN, SAVED? Saved from sin.

Romans 3:23; Gen. 2:17. We mean forgiveness.

A. We mean being transformed from the kingdom of Satan to the kingdom of God.

[God] has delivered us from the power of darkness & translated us into the kingdom of the Son of His love. (Col. 1:13).

[Jesus sent Paul to preach the gospel to the Gentiles] to open their eyes & turn them from darkness to light & from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins & an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me. (Acts 26:18).

B. It means being a new creature in Christ, born again. New chance. New start. John 3:3-5

Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation: old things have passed away; behold all things have become new. (2 Cor. 5:17).

C. It means all past sins have been taken away.

There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. (Romans 8:1)

II. HOW CAN WE KNOW THAT WE ARE SAVED?

A. Not by feelings. Saul thought he was right in persecuting the church, Acts 26:9.

Followers of Mohammed, Buddha, Confucius, gurus...

B. Not by what others think about us/majority opinion, etc.
Woe to you when all men speak well of you! For so did their fathers to the false prophets. (Luke 6:26).

C. We know we are saved when we obey the commands of God. That is what He promised & we can take Him at His word. Now by this we know that we know Him if we keep His commandments. He who says "I know Him" & does not keep His commandments is a liar & the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. (1 John 2:3-5).

III. NOW LET US CONSIDER THE QUESTION, 'WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?'

A. It is personal.

1. Not what must God do, John 3:16.
2. Not what must Christ do, Romans 5:8.
3. Not what must the Holy Spirit do, John 16:13.
4. Not what must others do, but what must *I* do.

B. It is practical.

1. Not what must I feel.
No Scripture tells how early Christians felt.
The Bible tells us what they said and what they did, but not what they felt.

2. The question is, what must I *do*.

C. The question is imperative. What *must* I do.

1. It is not left up to man to decide what must be done for the forgiveness of sins. God is the one who sets forth the conditions of forgiveness.

2. This question does not deal with alternatives or suggestions or things in the realm of human judgment. What *must* I do.

IV. THE LORD'S ANSWER. WE MUST NOTE THAT THE SAME BASIC QUESTION IS ASKED & ANSWERED 3 TIMES THIS SIDE OF THE DEATH OF CHRIST.

- A. In Acts 16:30-34, it was asked by an unbeliever.
B-r-b. Compare Romans 10:13-14.

Note: If we preach "the word of the Lord" the way Paul preached it, those who believe our preaching will repent & be baptized like the jailer & his family. If we preach "Christ" like Philip preached Christ in Acts 8:5, 35-39.

- B. In Acts 2:37, the same basic question is asked by those who had just come to believe in the true identity of Jesus. Acts 2:36-41. b-R-B.

- C. In Acts 9:6, the same information is sought by an individual who had already believed in Christ & repented of his sins.

So he, trembling & astonished, said, "Lord, what do You want me to do?" The Lord said to him, "Arise & go into the city, and you will be told what you *must* do." (Acts 9:6). READ ACTS 22:14-16. b-r-B.

NOTE: Why a different answer in each case? Because each questioner was in a different place along the road to forgiveness.

1. Compare the case of a traveler going from one place to another. He may stop a number of times to ask how far it is to his destination. He doesn't expect to get the same answer to his question each time.
2. Like the drunk: "I've been asking all day what time

it is, & all day long, I keep getting a different answer."

CONCLUSION: Where are YOU along the road to salvation?

Liberty Hill, TX, April 26, 1964

Cox Springs, TX, March 20, 1966

Jonestown, TX, November 2, 1969

Springhill, LA, July 11, 1971

KBSF Radio, Springhill, LA, October 3, 1971

KBSF Radio, Springhill, LA, November 17, 1974

La Porte, TX, June 27, 1976

La Porte, TX, June 20, 1982

Exton, PA, November 3, 1985

Exton, PA, August 26, 1990

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, May 15, 1994

Shippensburg, PA, June 8, 1998 (meeting)

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, June 14, 1998