

What Must I Do to Be Saved?

Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

Acts 16: 30-33, "And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway."

This question has been asked by different people, at different times. The answer is the same for each and everyone of us. The answer that you might get today will depend of who you ask. Some churches, and preachers, have taken it upon themselves to alter what God has said, and come up with their own plan. If you want God's Word on it you only have to know what the Word of God, the Bible, has to say. It is plain and not open to discussion. I don't care what some man, or domination, has to say about it, I am only interested in what my Lord has to say. He is the savior, and the judge, of all mankind. Jesus purchased our redemption

with his own blood and has the say about what we need to do.

In **Acts 16** the Philippian jailer asked, "What must I do to be saved?" Sure, the first thing that Paul said was for him to believe. Without believing in Jesus, there is nothing to do. A person who does not believe will not do anything that the Lord said to do. If, and when, a person believes, then, he will obey the commands of God. Some say that believing is all there is to do, but that conflicts with what the Lord said. In **Luke 6:46**, and other scriptures, the Lord says that we are to do what he has told us, not just to believe. **James 2:20** says, "But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?"

Repentance was not mentioned in **Acts 16:30-33**, but we know that when they spake to them the word of the Lord it had to be part of the message. Repentance doesn't come until a person believes and realizes his condition. When he is aware of his sin and its consequences is when repentance comes. It is a basic part of being born again.

Matthew 10:32-33 warns us that confessing Jesus is a necessity. We confess to the world that Jesus is Lord, and we must confess our sins. **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." This is only going to be done by someone who has faith in the Lord and is ready to obey the Lord's commands. It is not just done once, but is part of the life of a believer until death.

After being beaten, jailed, and in stocks, Paul and Silas took the jailer and his family, after midnight, and baptized them. Why? Because it was the Lord's command to do so. Is was not to join some man's church, but for the remission of sins. Many people leave it out, mock, and make fun of baptism, but the Lord said to do it and those who don't will have to answer to God. **Acts 2:38, Mark 16:16, Acts 22:16** and various other scriptures say to do it. Beware of any man who belittles any of the Lord's commands while claiming to serve God.

Then the new believer is to follow the Lord each, and every day. All Christians are to take up the cross and to walk with the Lord till we are taken out of this life. This is what the Lord has said to do to be born again. Some men will offer another way, but if you read God's Word you will see that this is the way Jesus taught it, the church practiced it, and true followers of the Lord have walked in it throughout history.

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This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the Book of Exodus intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times.

JACOB'S TOIL
LABAN, RACHEL'S FATHER HAS MET JACOB AT THE WELL WHERE RACHEL BROUGHT HER SHEEP—BEING A KINSMAN, JACOB GOES TO LABAN'S HOUSE.

COME, ABIDE WITH US, FOR THOU ART OF MINE OWN FLESH!

AND WE SHALL FEAST AND MAKE MERRY FOR, BEHOLD, MY SISTER'S SON HAST COME!

...AND THERE IS MUCH MERRYMAKING FOR THE BETTER PART OF A MONTH...

AND JACOB COMES TO LOVE RACHEL WITH ALL HIS HEART...

JACOB, BECAUSE THOU ART MY KINSMAN, SHOULDEST THOU WORK HERE FOR NAUGHT? TELL ME WHAT SHALL THY WAGES BE?

I WILL SERVE THEE FOR SEVEN YEARS FOR RACHEL, THY YOUNGER DAUGHTER.

IT IS BETTER THAT I GIVE HER TO THEE THAN TO ANOTHER—LET IT BE AS THOU SAYEST.

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