

Salvation: Do You Have It?

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Salvation: The Qualifications

A long time ago a man asked the question, "What must I do to be saved?" (Acts 16:30). First of all, God saves the following kind of people: "sinners" (Rom. 3:23), "ungodly" (Rom. 4:5), those "without strength" (Rom. 5:6), His "enemies" (Rom. 5:10).

If you do not think that you are any of the above, you cannot be saved. If you still think you're good enough, you cannot be saved. God does not save good people, or people trying to "earn their way to heaven." You must come to God God's way.

Salvation: The Basis

"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; being justified **freely** by His **grace** through the **redemption that is in Christ Jesus**" (Rom. 3:23-24). God saves sinners on this basis:

- 1). **Freely.** It does not cost the sinner anything. It is free. You can't earn salvation by being good, and you cannot lose salvation by being bad. God does not require any works from a sinner. Good works do not make it easier, and bad works do not make it harder to get saved. It is FREE, FREE, FREE! God justifies the sinner freely. Justification is the act whereby God declares a person righteous, even though that person in himself is not righteous.
- 2). **By His Grace.** That means that it comes from the heart of God without finding anything in the recipient that would draw out His grace. Grace is all that God is free to do for the undeserving sinner because Christ paid for our sins on the Cross. If we have to work for our salvation, then salvation is not "by His grace." If we can earn it, why did He die?
- 3). **Through the Redemption that is in Christ Jesus.** Salvation is free to the sinner, but it cost God everything! Free is not cheap. As a matter of fact, salvation is the most expensive thing that has ever been paid. The cost of salvation was that the Word, who was God (John 1:1-2), had to become flesh and die in the sinner's place. God did not spare His own Son but delivered Him up for us all! Webster defines "redemption" as follows: "The act of procuring the deliverance of persons or things from the possession and power of captors *by the payment of an equivalent.*" We are all born in captivity to sin and we cannot escape from its slavery no matter what we do. Sin against God requires a just payment. No man or church or works of any kind can pay this debt. But, thanks be to God, the debt has been fully paid for by the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord Jesus did no sin, He knew no sin, and in Him there is no sin. This is why His payment was acceptable. How do we know that what He did on the cross was an acceptable payment? Because God raised

Him from the dead! It would be the highest insult to offer to God your good works or religion in view of the fact that His Own Son suffered on the Cross and rose again from the dead to pay for your sins and justify you.

So to answer the question, "What must I do to be saved?" Stop making excuses, and place yourself in the "Qualifications" category, and receive the gift of salvation God has provided.

"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved" (Acts 16:31).

"I declare unto you the gospel...by which also ye are saved...Christ died for our sins...was buried, and...rose again the third day" (I Cor. 15:1-4).

Salvation: What Do I Do Now?

Now dear friend, if you are believer, you have the solution to the greatest problem that has plagued mankind – DEATH! The Savior who died for you is coming back. Until He does, we are to serve Him who died for us. If we die before He returns, God has promised us that we will be resurrected with a new body when Christ returns. But, as you will see in the scriptures below, we may not die before He comes back. Regardless, whether we live until the coming of the Lord, or we die before that great event, we will all get a glorious body like our Lord's. Think of it, no more sin, sickness or sorrow. Until then, Read the Bible, Believe the Bible, Obey the Bible and pass the Bible on to others.

But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Wherefore comfort one another with these words. (1 Th. 4:13-18)

For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. (Titus 2:11-14)

So now let us learn from God's grace that teaches us to live looking for that blessed hope. One day we will see our Savior.