

"Preacher, Are You Telling Me That For Me To Be Saved That I Must . . . ?"

It seems to be in the DNA of man that whatever he wants done, he will take a shortcut to get it done. Whatever he wants done, he wants it done now. And, the world is more than ready to accommodate him. Weight loss can be realized, at the most, in only a few days or weeks if we are willing to buy product "a" or "b" or "c." Our net worth can multiply astronomically almost overnight if we will enroll in program "x" or "y" or "z."

This is also true in the religious world. We can have salvation from our sins if we will buy this or that book written by this or that author or listen to his or her recording that tells us that the only thing we need to do is bow our head and invite Jesus into our heart. It is so simple! There is absolutely nothing that we must do to receive God's forgiveness because it has all been done for us. It isn't even necessary to know what the Bible says about any of this. And, whoever disagrees with that theology a misguided lunatic.

But, is that theology really true? Or, is there actually something that one must do to receive salvation? You be the judge by answering the following questions that are often asked of preachers.

"Preacher, are you telling me that for me to be saved that I must . . . hear the Word of God?"

No, I am telling you this is what the Bible says. You must hear the Word of God according to *Romans 10:14* - "...how shall they believe in Him of Whom they have not heard?" The "Him" in this verse refers to Jesus, the Christ. *Romans 10:14* is a rhetorical question demanding a negative answer. No one will believe in Jesus if they have never heard of "Him." This is why preachers go to the four corners of the earth to preach and teach the gospel. One must learn about "Him" before they are able to believe on "Him." But, how can they learn about "Him" if they

never hear the Word that tells the human race about "Him?" How could you know anything about "Him" if it were not for the Word of God, the Bible? Whatever anyone knows about "Him" is only because, at some point, he has heard the Word of God. Yes, to be saved from your sins you must hear the Word of God.

"Preacher, are you telling me that for me to be saved that I must . . . hear a preacher?"

No, I am telling you this is what the Bible says. You must hear a preacher preach or teach the Word of God. In the same verse, *Romans 10:14*, the question is asked, "*how shall they hear without a preacher?*" Someone must tell you about the message of the Bible. This is what preachers do; they tell people about Jesus, the Christ, and the salvation that is offered through "Him." You should not conclude that this means that some earthly preacher stands between you and salvation. Preachers are available to us other than those we hear today. The men who wrote God's Word were preachers. Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Paul, Peter, James, and Jude were also preachers; they wrote the twenty-seven books of the New Testament. When one reads what these men have written he hears a preacher speak the Word of God. Yes, to be saved from your sins you must hear the Word of God preached or taught by a preacher.

"Preacher, are you telling me that for me to be saved that I must . . . believe the Word of God?"

No, I am telling you this is what the Bible says. You must believe the Word of God. Jesus, Who is the Word of God (*John 1:1, 14*), said in *John 8:24*, "...if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins." There are many places in the Bible that tell us that we must believe that Jesus is Who

He said in the Bible He was and is. *John 3:16* is probably the most well-known verse that teaches this. "...whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." A Philippian jailer and his household in *Acts 16:30* were told to "*Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved...*" *Romans 10:9* says that to be saved from your sins you must believe that Jesus was raised from the dead.

"Preacher, are you telling me that for me to be saved that I must . . . believe that Jesus is the Christ?"

No, I am telling you this is what the Bible says. The same verse of scripture that tells us that we must believe that God raised "Him" from the dead (*Romans 10:9*) also says that we must believe that Jesus is Who He said He was and is: the Christ, the only begotten Son of God. Jesus Himself said in *Matthew 10:32* and *33*, "*Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father Who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father Who is in heaven.*" This is what Apostle Peter confessed in *Matthew 16:16* - "*You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.*" This is what an Ethiopian eunuch confessed in *Acts 8:37* - "*I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.*" Even young evangelist Timothy made this "*good confession in the presence of many witnesses*" according to *I Timothy 6:12*. To be saved from your sins you must confess your faith in the Christ Who washes your sins away with His blood that was shed on the cross. Contrary to what is taught by many well-meaning people, it is not your sins that must be confessed to any earthly person, not even to God Himself; He already knows your sins. Yes, to be saved from your sins you must confess your faith in "Him."

"Preacher, are you telling me that for me to be saved that I must repent of my sins?"

No, I am telling you this is what the Bible says. Twice in *Luke 13, verses 3 and 5*, Jesus said, *"...unless you repent you will all likewise perish."* Apostle Paul preached to a group of Athenians and told them in *Acts 17:30*, *"God...now commands all men everywhere to repent."* Apostle Peter wrote in *II Peter 3:9*, *"The Lord is...not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."* One who wants to be forgiven by God will not want to continue to live a life of rebellion against God and in disobedience to God; he will want to turn around his life by turning his back on sin and live a life that pleases God. What it is that needs to be repented of is different with everyone, but everyone who wants to be saved from his sins **must** repent of his sins. Yes, to be saved from your sins you **must** repent.

"Preacher, are you telling me that for me to be saved that I must be . . . baptized in water in the name of Jesus for the remission of my sins?"

No, I am telling you this is what the Bible says. Again, it is Jesus Who said in *Mark 16:16*, *"He who believes and is baptized will be saved..."* Apostle Peter preached in *Acts 2:38*, *"Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins..."* Even before the great Apostle Paul could be forgiven of his sins, he had to be baptized in water in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of his sins. In *Acts 22:16*, Ananias, the man who ministered to Paul after he had been struck down on the road to Damascus, asked him, *"And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord."* Every person in the book of *Acts* who was converted to Christ and who needed and wanted to be forgiven of their sins was baptized just as Jesus instructed in *Mark 16* and as Peter preached in *Acts 2* and as Paul obeyed in *Acts 22*. Yes, to be saved from your sins you **must** be immersed in water in the name of Jesus Christ.

"Preacher, are you telling me that for me to be saved that I must . . . be faithful to Christ to the end of my life?"

No, I am telling you this is what the Bible says. Christians in the church in Smyrna in *Revelation 2* were told in *verse 10* to *"Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life."* For some, their belief that they cannot or will not remain faithful to Christ prevents them from doing what the Bible says to do to receive salvation. This is because they do not understand that after becoming a Christian God places into their lives the presence of His Holy Spirit Who, according to *Romans 8:26*, *"helps in our weaknesses"* and *"makes intercession for us."* In other words, God does not leave anyone as an orphan to struggle on his own to live the life to which a Christian has been called. Anyone who submits his life to the will of God can live their life as a Christian. The local church that Jesus built, composed of dozens of other Christians, is ready and anxious to help any new Christian to learn the Word of God and live the new life to which he has been called. Yes, to be saved from your sins you **must** remain faithful to *"Him."*

There is a very evil and false doctrine taught within religion that says there is nothing anyone **must** do to be saved because Jesus has already done it all when what Jesus has really done is to make salvation possible and available to whosoever will come to *"Him"* in the way that His Word prescribes.

"Preacher, are you telling me that for me to be saved that I must . . . obey God ?"

No, I am telling you this is what the Bible says. *"...He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him."* (*Hebrews 5:9*) Yes, you **must** obey *"Him."* We pray that you will.

Multiple copies of this tract are available from:

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