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W H A T I S
SALVATION?



WHAT IS SALVATION?

Hello, Friend. What is the most important thing in the world? It is to know the Will of God and to do it. "It is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish" (Matthew 18:14). "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (II Peter 3:9). It is God's Will that you do not perish in hell, but that you repent, and believe God.

Salvation is believing God. "Oh, I believe in God," you say. By the way, the devils believe there is a God. James 2:19 says, "Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble." Why do the devils tremble? They know the awesome power of God and His righteous judgment. Do you realize that whenever Jesus encountered demons and commanded them to do something, they obeyed? If the demons believe in God and Jesus and obey them, then why are they not granted salvation, but are reserved unto the lake of fire? First, because they have no desire to accomplish God's plan and purpose. Secondly, because they reject God as the Supreme Authority. "Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness" (Romans 4:3).

What are we to believe?

We are to believe that God is real. "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him" (Hebrews 11:6).

We are to believe that God is sovereign. In other words, God has supreme rank, power, and authority. God is above all others in character, importance, and excellence. "The earth is the LORD's, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein" (Psalm 24:1). "Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his: And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding" (Daniel 2:20-21). "And [the king] said, O LORD God of our fathers, art not thou God in heaven? And rulest not thou over all the kingdoms of the heathen? And in thine hand is there not power and might, so that none is able to withstand thee?" (II Chronicles 20:6).

We are to believe in Jesus, God's Son. "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life: but the wrath of God abideth on him" (John 3:36). "For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not

condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God” (John 3:17-18).

We must believe that Jesus is the one true God. “And he [Jesus] said unto them, Ye are from beneath; I am from above: ye are of this world; I am not of this world. I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins” (John 8:23-24). “I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty” (Revelation 1:8).

We must believe that Jesus died on the cross, not for anything that He had done wrong, but for our sins. “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him [Jesus] the iniquity of us all” (Isaiah 53:6). “For he [God] hath made him [Jesus] to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him” (II Corinthians 5:21).

We must believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved” (Romans 10:9).

How do I get Salvation?

We are to confess our sins. “I acknowledge my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin (Psalm 32:5). We are to confess our sins to God. We are not to go through a priest or through the holy virgin Mary or the saints or angels or any person, for that is idolatry. “For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus” (I Timothy 2:5).

We are to repent. Repent means to change one’s mind. We are to change our minds about sin and about God. We are servants to sin, but now we want to be servants to God. “He that covereth his sins shall not prosper, but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them [repents] shall have mercy” (Proverbs 28:3).

We are to confess Jesus Christ is Lord (ruler of your life). “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation (Romans 10:9-10). For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Romans 10:13).

Do you have Salvation?

Now that you know what salvation is, the question is: Do you have salvation? Do you truly believe? Have you truly confessed? Is Jesus your Lord (ruler of your life)? It is the sin of unbelief (rejecting Jesus) that sends people to hell. Accept Jesus as your Savior today.

What Salvation Is Not

Now there are a few misconceptions of what salvation is. Salvation is not through praying, confession, baptism, the church, good works, or being good.

Salvation is not praying; it cannot save you. Praying is not a magical, mystical tool to get you to heaven. Many people are told to repeat a prayer to be saved. But Jesus said, "And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward...But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking" (Matthew 6:5-7). Notice Jesus called these people hypocrites and they were praying to God! Why? Because they did not believe in Jesus. "Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, This people draweth nigh unto me with their lips; but their heart is far from me" (Matthew 15:7-8). Do not trust in a prayer to save you; trust in Jesus.

Salvation is not praying to Mary. We are not to pray to the holy virgin Mary, or to the saints, or angels, or any other person or creature. "And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not; I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God" (Revelation 19:10). "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus" (I Timothy 2:5). "Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve" (Matthew 4:10).

Salvation is not confession. We are not to go to a priest to confess our sins. We confess our sins to the Lord Jesus who is our High Priest. "Wherefore in all things it behooved [was necessary for] him to be made like unto his brethren [he became a man], that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people" (Hebrews 2:17).

Salvation is not through baptism. We are not going to heaven because we are baptized. Baptism is a picture of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. In every instance of baptism in the Bible, there was repentance first. "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission [pardon] of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost" (Acts 2:38). But when they believed Philip preaching the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women" (Acts 8:12). "See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. 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" (Acts 8:36-38). The thief on the cross was never baptized, yet he was told by Jesus, "Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise" (Luke 23:24). Throughout

the Scriptures every time a person was baptized, they had believed first. "Then they that gladly received his word were baptized" (Acts 2:41).

Salvation is not through works. Most sincere, religious people are trying to work their way into heaven. They must witness, give out tracts, work in the church, and dress a certain way. But the Scriptures say, "Not by works of righteousness which we have done he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost" (Titus 3:5). It is God who is merciful toward us. God saves us. God washes away our sins. God renews our mind. "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast" (Ephesians 2:8-9). Notice we are saved through faith, through believing. It is not what you can do for Christ, but what He has already done for us. Not our work. Faith is the sole condition of eternal salvation, otherwise it is not a free gift but of works. If we could get to heaven ourselves, Jesus would not have had to die on the cross!

Salvation is not through being good. Many moral and upright people believe they are on their way to heaven. They do not curse, drink, smoke, gamble, or commit adultery; therefore, their good deeds will outweigh their bad deeds. But God says "As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one...there is none that doeth good, no not one" (Romans 3:10, 12b). See also Psalm 14:1-5 and Isaiah 64:6. Jesus died to save the sinner.

What Believing Means

Believing in Jesus means believing Jesus Christ is the Guarantor of eternal life for every believer. We must believe Jesus is the only way to heaven. There are not many roads and all lead to heaven. There is only one way. "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6). We need to believe that Jesus is enough. Take a moment to pray and confess (name) your sins; call upon the name of the Lord. Believe God now.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner. I believe you died on the cross to pay for my sin and rose again from the dead. I am now turning from my way and my desires, to accept you, Jesus, as my Savior and Lord. Clean my heart and forgive my sin. Thank you for giving me eternal life. Amen.

After I Believe, Then What?

After you have believed, after you have received Jesus as our Savior, you will have a new nature: the Holy Spirit will live inside you. Read the Bible and pray every day. Love God and serve Him. "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all your heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind: and thy neighbor as thyself" (Luke 10:27). Love the Lord.