

# SALVATION

by  
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**S**ALVATION, God's greatest gift — man's greatest need! The greatest question man can ask is recorded in Acts 16:30, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" It is the greatest question man can ask because it involves:

- ◆ THE GREATEST LOVE — "God so loved" (John 3:16).
- ◆ THE GREATEST GIFT — "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son" (John 3:16).
- ◆ THE GREATEST SACRIFICE — "While we were yet sinners Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).
- ◆ THE GREATEST AMOUNT OF TIME — Eternity.

Truly this question, which was asked by the Philippian jailer, is the greatest question man can ask because the answer will determine where immortal souls will live eternally.

Note God's answer to this question which was given through the apostle Peter as he was guided by the Holy Spirit (John 14:26; 16:13; Acts 2).

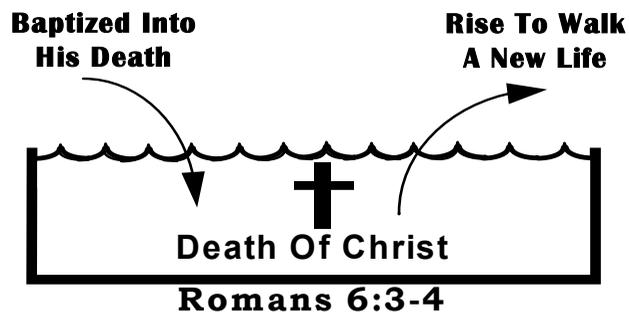
**"Let all the house of Israel therefore know assuredly, that God hath made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom ye crucified. Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart and said unto Peter and the rest of the apostles, Brethren, what shall we do? And Peter said unto them, Repent ye, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ unto the remission of your sins; and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit"** (Acts 2:36-38). In verse thirty-eight we read that repentance and baptism were for the same purpose, i.e., unto remission of sins.

### ISN'T THIS PUTTING TOO MUCH EMPHASIS ON WATER?

The terms *water* and *baptism* are not synonymous. Water is the element in which one is baptized (Acts 8:36), and baptism is the act which brings the

sinner into union with the blood of Jesus. The apostle Paul describes what takes place in baptism in Romans, chapter six.

**"What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. We who died to sin, how shall we any longer live therein? Or are ye ignorant that all we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him through baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life"** (Romans 6:1-4).



### IS THIS ATTRIBUTING SALVATION TO BAPTISM?

In the New Testament the sinner's salvation is

THE SINNER IS SAVED BY:	
<b>Jesus Christ</b> .....	Matthew 1:21
<b>The Blood of Jesus</b> .....	Romans 5:9
<b>Gospel of Jesus Christ</b> .....	I Corinthians 15:1-2
<b>The Grace of God</b> .....	Ephesians 2:8-9
<b>The Life of Jesus</b> .....	Romans 5:10
<b>The Mercy of God</b> .....	Titus 3:5

Matthew 1:21 — "And she shall bring forth a son; and thou shalt call his name Jesus; for it is **he that shall save his people from their sins.**"

Romans 5:9 — "Much more then, being now **justified by his blood**, shall we be saved from the wrath of God through him."

I Corinthians 15:1-2 — "Now I make known unto you, brethren, the **gospel** which I preached unto you, which also ye received, wherein also ye stand, **by which also ye are saved**, if ye hold fast the word which I preached unto you, except ye believed in vain."

Ephesians 2:8-9 — "For **by grace have ye been saved** through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not of works, that no man should glory."

Romans 5:10 — "For if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, shall we be **saved by his life.**"

Titus 3:5 — "not by works done in righteousness, which we did ourselves, but according to **his mercy he saved us**, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit."

From a careful reading of these passages it is evident that the sinner is saved by: **Jesus Christ, The Blood of Jesus, The Gospel, The Grace of God, The Life of Jesus, and The Mercy of God.**

The Bible teaches further that:

THE SINNER IS SAVED BY:	
<b>Baptism</b> .....	I Peter 3:21
<b>Calling On The Lord</b> .....	Romans 10:13
<b>Faith</b> .....	Romans 5:1
<b>Hope</b> .....	Romans 8:24
<b>Saving Ourselves</b> .....	Acts 2:40
<b>Works</b> .....	James 2:24

I Peter 3:21 — "Which also after a true likeness **doth now save you, even baptism**, not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the interrogation of a good conscience toward God, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ."

Romans 10:13 — "For Whosoever shall **call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.**"

(See Matthew 7:21 for what is involved in calling upon the name of the Lord).

Romans 5:1 — "Being therefore **justified by faith**, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Romans 8:24 — "For **by hope were we saved**: but hope that is seen is not hope: for who hopeth for that which he seeth?"

Acts 2:40 — "And with many other words he testified, and exhorted them saying, **save yourselves** from this crooked generation."

James 2:24 — "Ye see that **by works a man is justified**, and not only by faith." (Not by works of merit - Ephesians 2:8; not by works of the Law of Moses - Romans 3:28; but by works of obedience - James 2:22).

A careful study of these passages indicates that the sinner is saved by: **Baptism, Calling on the Lord, Faith, Hope, Saving Ourselves**, and by **Works of Obedience.**

From these charts we realize that salvation has both a divine side and a human side. There are certain things which God has done for man, things which man cannot do for himself, in order that he might be saved. On the other hand there are certain things which man must do for himself, things which God will not do for man since he is a free-will being. In order to obtain salvation, God saves man through his grace, mercy, son, the life and blood of his son, and the gospel (none of which man can provide for himself).

To this offer of salvation, provided by God, man responds with his faith and obedience. In this study it is vital that we realize that we cannot leave out any of these elements to which our salvation is attributed — *the New Testament includes them all*, and to please God we must accept this truth.

### RELATIONSHIP OF SALVATION TO BAPTISM

Noting in God's word that the salvation of the sinner is dependent upon several things, let's now turn to one of these areas for a more detailed consideration. This area concerns the subject of baptism.

In the New Testament we find several passages of scripture in which the terms *salvation* and *baptism* appear. Reading each passage closely the careful student is able to determine whether baptism precedes salvation or salvation precedes baptism.

Mark 16:16 — "He that believeth and is **baptized shall be saved**; but he that disbelieveth shall be condemned." (Baptism, *then* ⇒ Salvation).

Acts 2:38 — "And Peter said unto them, Repent ye, and **be baptized** every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ, **unto remission of sins** and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." (Baptism, *then* ⇒ Remission of Sins).

Acts 22:16 — "And now why tarriest thou? arise, and **be baptized**, and **wash away thy sins**, calling on his name." (Baptism *for* ⇒ Removal of Sins).

Romans 6:4 — "We were buried therefore with him through **baptism into death**; that like as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the