

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?
(Acts 16:25-30)

I. How hear we?

- A. The very first thing one must do is hear the gospel.
- B. This jailer was a pagan religiously.
 - 1. He was, if anything, an idolater.
 - 2. He had never heard the gospel or even about Jesus.
- C. Paul and Silas had been praying and singing so he knew there was something different about these men.
 - 1. He also knew why they had been put in prison.
 - 2. Paul had performed a notable miracle.
- D. When he asked this great question, Paul and Silas told him that he must first believe in Jesus and then he could be saved (vs. 31).
- E. One cannot believe the gospel until he has heard the gospel and that is why we then read that they spoke the word of the Lord to this man (vs. 32).
- F. Jesus stressed the importance of proper hearing (Matthew 11:15; Mark 4:9).
- G. The reason we must hear this word is two-fold:
 - 1. It is the only message that brings salvation (Romans 1:16).
 - 2. It is this word by which we will be judged (John 12:48).
- H. One cannot believe that which he has not heard (Romans 10:13-17).

II. What think ye of Christ?

- A. Once a person hears the gospel, he/she must decide if they believe the gospel message of Jesus or not.
- B. There is no doubt that Jesus existed - this is not the question.
- C. Will a person that has heard the gospel believe in Jesus as the Son of God or not is the question.
- D. The Bible presents Him as such (Matthew 16:16-17).
 - 1. God Himself attested to this fact (Matthew 3:17; 17:5).
 - 2. This is what John the Immerser preached (John 1:34).
- E. Without belief in this fact, the Sonship of Jesus, we cannot be saved (John 8:24).
- F. The Philippian jailer had never heard of Jesus and this is why Paul and Silas told him he had to first believe in Jesus.
 - 1. Mark 16:16.
 - 2. Without belief in Jesus, any further preaching by Paul and Silas would have been useless.
- G. We have a decision to make once we have heard God's word - is Jesus the Son of God or not.

III. Who can forgive sins but God only?

- A. Upon hearing and believing the gospel, a person then must repent of his or her sins.
- B. This is exactly what those present on Pentecost were told to do (Acts 2:38).
 - 1. These people were already pricked in their hearts that they had killed the Son of God.
 - 2. This showed the fact that they believed in Jesus as God's Son.
 - 3. There was no point in telling them to believe because they already did.
- C. The jailer heard words about the Lord and then we are told that he washed the wounds of Paul and Silas, thus demonstrating his repentance.
- D. Repentance is a change of mind, brought about by godly sorrow, that results in a change of action (2 Corinthians 7:10; Acts 26:19-20).
 - 1. The jailer demonstrated this by taking the missionaries into his house and by treating their wounds.
 - 2. Before, he would have never done this.
- E. Repentance shows God that you want your life to change and you don't want to be the person you used to be.

IV. Why call ye me Lord Lord?

- A. After repentance, once must confess Christ with His mouth (Romans 10:9-10).
- B. This is a distinct confession - saying that one believes that Jesus is the Son of God.
- C. Timothy confessed this before men (1 Timothy 6:12) as did the Ethiopian nobleman (Acts 8:37).
- D. While we are not told specifically that the jailer did this, we know he must have because Paul and Silas proceeded to baptize him and members of his house.
- E. The confession continues on with the way one lives.
 - 1. Jesus commanded that we confess Him before men (Matthew 10:32-33).
 - 2. We do this by being obedient to Him.
- F. We are confessing Christ when we are baptized into Him.
 - 1. We confess the fact that we believe His blood must cleanse us from our sins.
 - 2. We confess the fact that we must put Him on in order to receive spiritual blessings.

V. What doth hinder me to be baptized?

- A. The final step one must take in order to be saved is to be baptized into Christ.

B. We see that the jailer and members of his family were baptized (vs. 33).

C. While many in the religious world do agree with the first four steps mentioned in this sermon, many would argue the necessity of baptism.

1. Every account of one being saved in the book of Acts shows that each was baptized into Christ.
2. Our Lord commanded it (Mark 16:16).
3. Paul taught it (our account).
4. Peter taught it (Acts 10:47).
5. Philip preached it (Acts 8:12).

D. There is no denying the necessity of baptism in order for sins to be washed away (Acts 22:17).