

Learn Your Bible

Lesson #5

In this lesson, we will be studying a question that has probably divided the Lord's church in more ways than by any other; "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" (Acts 16:30)

The answers given by modern religious leaders will range greatly. Some actually teach 'there is **nothing** you can **do**, you have been predestined to either heaven or hell,' others teach: "pay your indulgences and sin your way to heaven"! We obviously cannot accept human teachings as our authority. The same book that tells us that heaven exists, also tells us how to get there. The Bible should be our ultimate and **ONLY** authority.

But, you may say, these leaders all claim to have the Bible's teaching on the subject! To this I want to refer you to the word of God. In Acts 18:24-26 we learn of a man called Apollos, an eloquent man... mighty in the scriptures... but his teaching on baptism was not the "apostles doctrine" (Acts 2:42). Paul, in Acts chapter 19, apparently ran into some of Apollos' disciples and "re-baptized" them. (Actually "re-baptized" while descriptive, is a bad term. If you are **actually** baptized, you are baptized.)

From this we learn that education is not a requirement to understanding the word of God. In fact, Paul said "For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not {come to} know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe." and again "but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise," (I Corinthians 1:21, 27)

The point is this, God wrote to you and I, what we might call a letter, to tell us **how** we are to get to heaven. We are capable of understanding it, or He wouldn't have given it to us! Let's read it and find how to go to heaven. The same Bible that directed Christians to heaven then... will instruct us today.

Did you know that in the book of Acts the question of "what must I do" is actually asked not once, but three times? Let's use this as an example to begin our study and note the answers.

1) Acts 2:37 "what shall we do?" vs. 38 _____ and

2) Acts 9:6, 22:10 _____ and go _____ and it will be _____ . Saul would be told what he should do or must do?

3) Acts 16:30 “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” vs. 31 _____ Note from vs. 31 if one person in a house believes, is everyone in the household saved? _____ Each of these answers is different... obviously each person is in a different circumstance when they asked the question.

Next is a chart of the conversions in the book of Acts. Note that while one person emphasizes “this” another emphasizes “that”... this chart will allow you to draw your own conclusions on what **GOD CHOSE TO EMPHASIZE**. This is the only place in the New Testament we actually see folks becoming Christians. The rest of the New Testament is generally addressed to Christians. The example of Acts 18 (Corinth) is worked for you. Acts 19 will be taken up at the end of this study. Read each one and put the verse number under each one of the requirements mentioned in the passage.

Preaching Believed Repented Confessed Baptized Saved*

Corinth

Acts 18:4-8

Vs. 8

Vs. 8

Pentecost

Acts 2:14-41

Samaria

Acts 8:5-13

Eunuch

Acts 8:35-39

Saul

Acts 9

Acts 22:9-16

Cornelius

Acts 10:3-6

Acts 10:43-48

Lydia

Acts 16:13-15

Jailer

Acts 16:25-33

*forgiveness, remission of sins, rejoiced, etc...

1) From the chart we just created, we could be tempted to slight the importance of repenting and confessing Christ. Would this justified? _____ Explain: _____

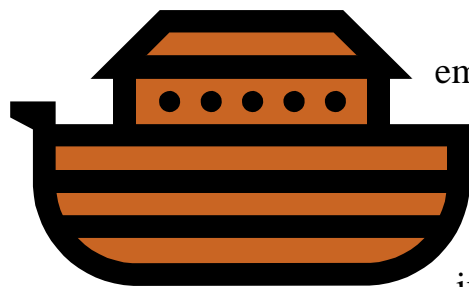
2) Which one of these requirements to be saved is mentioned in all of these conversions? _____ Does this make it any more important than belief? _____ (See also John 8:24)

3) In Acts 22:16 how was Paul to call on the Lord? _____

4) Romans 10:8-17, particularly verse 9, is used by some to place confession as the all-important step to salvation. Read this passage and list the verses where each of the "steps of conversion" are mentioned:

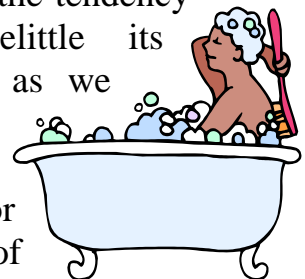
Hearing _____ Believing _____ Confessing _____
Repenting _____ Obeying (baptism etc.) _____

5) Define each of the steps in your own words:
Hearing _____
Believing _____
Confessing _____
Repenting _____
Baptized _____
Saved _____



Many have ridiculed or confused the emphasis that the Bible places on baptism. Most understand the need for the previous steps, but when it comes to baptism, the tendency has been to belittle its importance. Since, as we

will see, it is in baptism we obtain the forgiveness of our sins, we will study this subject further. Many have said the Bible places a mystical and/or magical quality in the water and the effects of baptism. Peter makes an argument from Noah's



salvation (I Peter 3:20-21) He says that baptism figuratively saves us just as the flood saved Noah, but it is not as in "taking a bath," but rather the appeal to God in baptism that saves us. In other words, it isn't the water itself that saves us, but how it stands in our obedience to God. The power of baptism isn't in the water itself, but this is the way God gave us to obey, or appeal to Him.

6) Will God allow un-forgiven sinners into heaven? (Romans 3:23-26) _____ Explain: _____

7) Using a dictionary, please define "remission of sins" _____

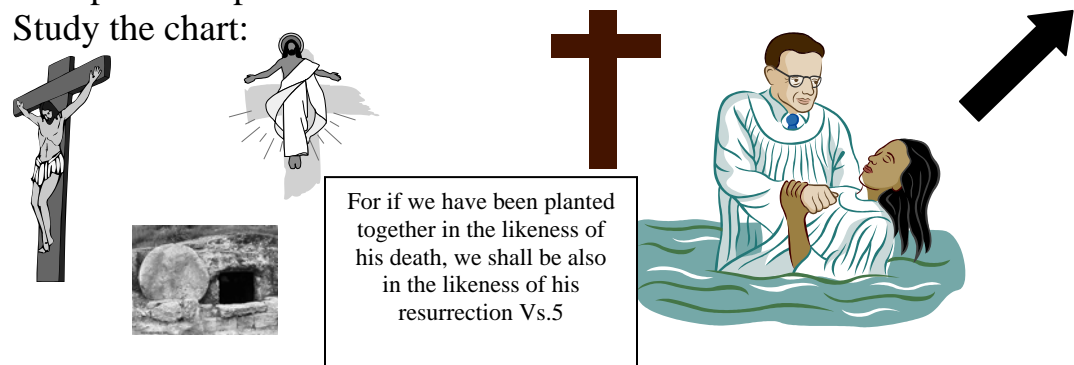
8) When does remission of sins occur? (Acts 2:38, 22:16) _____

9) What actually cleanses (washes away) our sins? (I John 1:7) _____

When are we given this? (Acts 22:16) _____
 Do you see the distinction between the question of what cleanses us and when it cleanses us? _____

The question of the necessity of baptism should be sufficiently answered. It is agreed that one cannot go to heaven unless he is forgiven. Another question comes up however. What makes up baptism? In Romans 6:1-8 we can see Paul explaining the meaning of each part of baptism.

Study the chart:



To properly interpret the Bible, one must be reminded that many, actually most of those in the congregations, could not read. The apostles therefore drew "word pictures." First, we are "dead in sin"

(Romans 6:1,2 and Colossians 2:12) just as Christ was dead on the cross. We are buried in a watery tomb, just as he was buried in a stone tomb. Then, we are raised alive, just as he too, was raised alive.

10) The word "buried" in Romans 6:1-8 and Colossians 2:12 literally means "entombed." Could sprinkling fulfill the symbolism? _____
Explain: _____

11) A prominent commentator that practices "sprinkling baptism" explains this passage: "Before we can understand what Paul goes on to say, we must remember that baptism in Paul's day is different than what it commonly is today." What authority would properly justify such a change? (Matthew 15:9) _____



12) When did Christ become alive? (Romans 6:4) _____
_____ According to Paul's word picture, when do we become alive? _____
Paul calls this (verse 2) _____

13) Many teach we are spiritually alive when we believe- before baptism. What does this do to Paul's picture? _____

14) How many types of baptism are acceptable to God? (Ephesians 4:5) _____

BUT, I'VE ALREADY BEEN BAPTIZED!

Read Acts 18:24-19:5

15) Was John's baptism immersion? (John 3:23) _____
How do we know? _____

16) Did John's baptism involve repentance? (Acts 19:4) _____

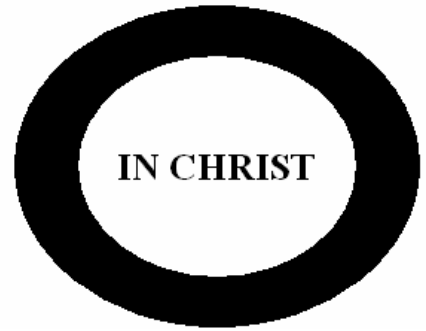
17) John's baptism was even for the _____ of sins.
Luke 3:3

18) They hadn't been baptized into the
_____ (I Corinthians
12:13)

19) For our study we might say what
was deficient is that they hadn't obeyed

(Romans 6:17) which is also called the
_____ (Acts 2:42)

and _____ (Ephesians 4:5). The above scriptures
give us three different descriptions of the gospel.



20) Read Galatians 3:26-27 **HOW** does someone "put on" Christ?
_____ **WHO** has "put on" Christ? _____

HOW does one get "into" Christ? _____

APPLICATION

21) The first question is "Have you obeyed our Lord in
baptism?" _____ If not, "What prevents me (you) from
being baptized?" "Arise and be baptized, and wash away thy sins,
calling on the name of the Lord." (contact us and we will assist you in
this.)

22) If you have, "Into what then were you baptized? Acts 19:4

23) Were you baptized because of or for the remission of your sins?

24) Were you sprinkled or immersed? _____

25) Were you baptized into the "one body?" _____

26) If you obeyed some "other doctrine" were you really baptized, or were you "dunked?" _____

27) Consider the implications of Acts 19:5... If you were previously "baptized" in a different manner, or for a different reason than the one God ordained, Can you "just learn better" later? In other words, can you apply "later knowledge" to a previous baptism and avoid being baptized as God ordained? _____

What did these "Christians" do when the deficiency was pointed out? _____ Does this affect you? _____

Baptism and the understanding of it are essential to our salvation. Study carefully.

Jesus has risen from the dead.... Have you?



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