

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS

ABOUT SALVATION

Before we start let's get one thing out of the way. Salvation has nothing whatsoever to do with "being good" or ,the opposite,how rotten you may have been in the past. Salvation is a new beginning,a point in time. Salvation is all about believing what the Lord Jesus has done for us on Calvary's cross and the fact that He rose again on the third day.

Why do we need to be saved? We are all sinners and can not live up to God's standards.

ROMANS 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

That's a good enough reason. We will all spend eternity somewhere. So how are we saved? We believe that Jesus died on the cross to pay for our sins and was raised again the third day. We ask for it,and provided you are sincere when you ask,it really is that simple. Here are some verses from the Pauline epistles. Paul was/is the apostle to the Gentiles. You and I are Gentiles,unless you happen to be Jewish,in which case it now applies to you as well. Romans chapter ten verse 9 is a conditional promise directly from God. In other words, if you do what the verse says then you SHALL be saved.

Romans chapter 10,verses 9 and 10;

Vs 9 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.

Vs 10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Now look long and hard at verse 10.It is also good to note here that the confession mentioned here is not confession of sin but,rather,confession that Jesus is the Lord and that he will be master of our lives.

Confession of sin comes later in your prayers and is always to God and never to any other person. If that isn't enough lets move further, into the Pauline letters,to First Corinthians chapter 15 verses 3 and 4.

Vs 3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received,how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

Vs 4 And that he was buried,and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures.

So,it is really that simple; Believe in your heart; Confess that Jesus will be your Lord and Savior; Ask him to come into your heart and save your soul. Now,just as soon as you have done this,one of your buddies will come along and tell you that you have to do SOMETHING to be saved. We all want to do something, but this is what the Holy Spirit,again speaking through Paul,has to say about that.

Ephesians chapter two verses 8 and 9;

Vs 8 For by grace are ye saved through faith;and that not of yourselves;it is the gift of God.

Vs 9 Not of works,lest any man should boast.

So,the work of salvation in your life is completely done by God. All we have to do is give him permission. Spend some time thinking about verse 9. So,don't ever confuse salvation,of your soul, with living the Christian life. They are two very different things. Salvation is easy and simple for us though

it certainly wasn't simple, or easy, for Jesus. Living the Christian life here in the US can be relatively simple with our worst problem usually being temptation. In other places in the world it can cost you your life.

Now, all of the above is to bring you to this; John Ch 3:3. **“Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God”.**

This is speaking of spiritual rebirth and is totally done by the Holy Spirit. As time goes by you will notice changes in your lifestyle as well as changes in your conscience. Some of these changes can be a love for God's word and a desire to be around other Christians.

There are literally hundreds of verses dealing with salvation. I picked these because they are the ones I use and because they are easy for beginners to understand.

Now, I need to mention a couple of other things before we leave this page. When you pray that salvation prayer, mentioned above, the Holy Spirit is there to do the work in your heart. There will be a change in your attitude and lifestyle. It may take a while so be patient. Salvation is instantaneous but cleaning you up is an ongoing process and moves into leading the Christian life.

THE WORLDS LUCKIEST THIEF

Three men were hanging on those Roman crosses, enduring the worst torture known to man. After being beaten nearly to death, they had nails driven through their hands and feet in such a way that they hung from the nails in a way that required them to raise themselves on the nails in order to get a breath. This went on throughout the day, and since this was Wednesday and this Wednesday at sundown began a "high sabbath", they could look forward to having their legs broken at the end of the day. With broken legs they could no longer raise themselves to breath and thus died from suffocation.

So how were any of these three lucky? I picture Jesus in the center with a thief on either side. Thief number one mocks Jesus, **Luke 23 vs 39, saying, "if thou be Christ, save thyself and us".** The other thief rebuked him in verse 40 and 41 saying **"do you not fear GOD? This man has done nothing amiss but we receive the just reward for our deeds".** He then said **"LORD, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom".** This was all the man said and even that must have cost him terrible pain. So, how is this man lucky? Look at what Jesus said in verse 43. **"And Jesus said unto him; verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in Paradise.** And that folks, is salvation straight from the mouth of our Savior. So, let's review what the thief did, and did not do. He never went to church, was never baptized, never tithed, never helped the poor, never "spoke in tongues" nor did any of the things some Christians depend on today. What he did was the same four things we do today to obtain salvation.

He recognized that he was a sinner; **"we receive the just reward for our deeds"**

He recognized that Jesus was the Son of God; vs 42 he called Jesus **"Lord"**.

He asked for it; **"Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom"**

And finally, he made it public. In his case just by the fact that he was hanging on a cross, in public, where everyone could see and hear. Today we usually make it public by joining a local church. These four

things worked for the thief two thousand years ago and they work for us today.

Finally, the main salvation verse, **Romans chapter 10, verses 9 and 10; Vs 9 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.**

Vs 10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation..

so, for us, in our time, it is about belief from the heart and nothing else.