

SALVATION

TEXT: Various

THESIS: One must know the questions for salvation so they can be saved.

INTRODUCTION:

1. Stanley was a young 20 yr. old man dying of cancer.
 - a. He wanted to be saved and he realized he was a sinner and so, he wanted to know what to do.
 - b. We must know that everyone in the world can be saved.
2. All of us have experienced the consequences of being lost.
 - a. Paul penned, "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you . . ." (1 Cor. 6:9-11)
 - b. We have all experienced:
 - i. The anxiety of living without salvation.
 - ii. The emptiness of living without God.
 - iii. The hopelessness of living without hope.
3. Now, there are several questions that must be asked before being saved and for those of us who are saved, it is good to remember when we were saved.
4. Now, as to the questions, the correct answers must be given before salvation will be realized.

DISCUSSION:

- I. WHAT MUST A PERSON HAVE TO BE SAVED?
 - A. If we believe that it is money, education, fame, honor, prestige, or social standing just because my friend has been saved, this is the wrong idea of what a person must have to be saved.
 - B. To be saved, a person must have a desire to be saved.
 1. "Blessed *are* they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled." (Matt. 5:6)
 2. In Acts 2:14-47, we see individuals there for the Pentecost who were listening to the apostles. Around vs. 37, they had this desire to be saved and asked, "what shall we do to be saved?"
 3. When we truly desire to be saved, we will seek for that answer.
 4. You know, it's ironic, when we want to know what to do, we will gladly do it.
 - C. But, we must have a willingness to learn.
 1. So many have sought salvation, but were never willing to learn what was needed.
 - a. Some just want to accept Jesus into your heart by saying a prayer.

- b. Others believe that you are saved without doing anything because you have been preselected.
 - c. But, notice what our Lord said in Matt. 13:15, “For this people's heart is waxed gross, and *their* ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with *their* eyes, and hear with *their* ears, and should understand with *their* heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.”
 - (1) The people wanted the Savior, the people wanted God in their lives, but then they were not willing to listen to Him.
2. Alas, we must be taught how to be saved.
- a. We must know that Jesus has all power in heaven and earth.
 - b. Notice in Matt. 28:18-20 teaching and baptism goes hand and hand because this is how someone is saved.
 - c. Jesus said, “It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.” (Jn. 6:45).
 - d. So, an individual must be taught how to be saved.
 - (1) To wake up from a dream and believe that you are saved, is proof that you were not saved by God because God saves those who are taught.
 - (2) And, Jesus is the only one who can save.
3. And those searching for salvation, cannot be taught just anything.
- a. They must be taught the Gospel and what is being taught must be received and obeyed.
 - (1) Paul mentioned in 1 Cor 15:1-4, “Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:
 - b. Another example is when, “Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized.” (Acts 18:8).
- D. When considering what you must have to be saved, you must have enough integrity or moral soundness to accept God's word.
- 1. Jesus said, “Take heed therefore how ye hear: for whosoever hath, to him shall be given; and whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he seemeth to have” (Lk. 8:18).
 - 2. Also, “he said unto them, Take heed what ye hear: with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you: and unto you that hear shall more be

- given” (Mk. 4:24).
3. Therefore, we must accept what the Bible teaches.
 - a. Now, we will not know everything about a subject, but we must believe enough to completely accept God’s Word.
 - b. And, we must discard what the Bible doesn't teach.
 - (1) Friends and family mean well, but they may give you more than what the Bible teaches.
 - (2) This can become confusing and therefore, let God speak.
- E. And, in order to be saved, we must have the humility or humbleness to submit.
1. “Blessed *are* the poor in spirit: (*the individual who humbly brings himself face to face with God*) for theirs is the kingdom of heaven” (Matt. 5:3).
 2. “Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven” (Matt. 18:4).
 3. You know, pride keeps more people from God than you would believe.
 4. But, we are talking about what you have to have to be saved, not to save face.
 - a. We are not trying to please everybody when looking for salvation. We are trying to please God by seeking after Him.

II. WHAT MUST A PERSON REALIZE TO BE SAVED?

- A. You must realize that you are lost.
 1. Until we realize this, we will make no effort to change.
 2. People are lost because they have sinned.
 - a. In the 1st 3 chapters of Romans Paul shows that everyone is guilty of this.
 - b. In fact, centuries before, Isaiah said, “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.” (Isa. 53:6)
 - c. The apostle John tells us that, “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.” (1 Jn. 1:8, 10).
- B. We must realize that we cannot save ourselves.
 1. So, why did Peter urge the people to "save yourself" (Acts 2:40)?
 2. Peter said this only after heaven's help had been extended.
 - a. Peter told them what they should do to receive God’s grace or the remission of sins, but it was now their move.
 - b. Would they continue to walk with a perverse and crooked generation or would they leave them and turn to Christ for salvation?
- C. You must realize that Christ alone can save you.
 1. And, “This *is* a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners . . .” (1 Tim 1:15).

2. “For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.” (Lk. 19:10)
 3. “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12)
 4. For, “. . . he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;” (Heb. 5:8-9).
- D. You must realize that Christ wants to save you.
1. For he said, “Come unto me, all *ye* that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke *is* easy, and my burden is light.” (Matt. 11:28-30).
 2. Yet, for those who do not come to the peace that he provides, Christ weeps over you. (Lk. 19:40-41)
- E. We must realize that Christ made salvation possible.
1. The Hebrew writer said, “And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.” (Heb. 9:22).
 2. Some say, well what about the blood of animals?
 - a. Well, “*it is* not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.” (Heb. 10:4).
 - b. What does that leave that will take away sins?
 - (1) “. . . Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.” (Heb. 2:9).
 - (2) He said, “For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins” (Matt. 26:28).
- F. You must realize that only you can make salvation likely.
1. Only Christ can make it possible; only you can make it probable.
 2. The probability of a person being saved depends upon his:
 - a. Desire to be saved.
 - b. Willingness to learn.
 - c. Integrity to accept.
 - d. Humility to submit.
 - e. Realization he is lost.
 - f. That he cannot save himself.
 - g. That Christ wants to save him.
 - h. That Christ has made salvation possible.

III. WHAT MUST A PERSON DO TO BE SAVED?

- A. The best example of this is seen with those in Acts 16:25-33.
1. So, here a question was asked, an answer was given, you have obedient sinners which equals salvation.
- B. Today, we must hear the gospel before we can expect to be saved.

1. Because, faith comes by hearing (Rom. 10:13-14, 17).
2. Yet, we are to be doers of the word, and not hearers only. . .” (Jam. 1:22).
- C. We must believe.
 1. Jesus said, “. . . that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am *he*, ye shall die in your sins” (Jn. 8:24).
 2. But, belief alone is not enough (Jam. 2:24).
- D. We must repent.
 1. God commands all to repent (Acts 17:30).
 2. “For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation . . .” (2 Cor 7:10)
- E. And, we must confess our faith.
 1. Paul said, “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.” (Rom. 10:9-10).
- F. Then, we must be baptized.
 1. Baptism is commanded (Acts 10:48).
 2. For remission of sins (Acts 2:38).
 3. To be saved (Mk 16:16).
 4. To wash away sins (Acts 22:16).
 5. And, it is the only way to get into Christ.
 - a. “For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ” (Gal. 3:27).

Conclusion

1. You know, the greatest song that the world can ever sing is "Salvation has been brought down." (Number 650)
 - a. Jesus gave his life a ransom yonder on Calvary, on mount calvary, cruel calvary, paved the way by blood that we might win a bright shining crown. Praise his holy name, salvation has been brought down.
 - b. All alone without a friend he suffered to pay it all, yes he paid it all, Jesus paid it all. In his blessed promises sweet victory can be found. Praise his holy name, salvation has been brought down.
 - c. There's a blessed home prepared way over in gloryland, in bright gloryland, blessed gloryland. I have trusted in his love and now I am heaven bound. Praise his holy name, salvation has been brought down.
 - d. Chorus: Praise the Lord, blessed Lord, salvation has been brought down from heaven. Go and shout, go and shout and tell the world around. God preach it and tell it today to people in sorrow, tell it today and tell it tomorrow. Preach the word of God that we might win a shining crown in heaven. Tell the lost, all the lost, salvation is full and free to sinners. Spread the news, blessed news all over the land and sea. Go teach it and tell it afar in every nation. Tell it afar all over creation. Praise the Lord, blessed Lord, salvation has been brought down.
2. If you want to be saved because you realize you are lost and will obey Jesus:

- a. Then salvation is yours...
- b. And all the blessings in Christ are yours.