

Understanding Salvation

Introduction

By far the most controversial subject in religion is the teaching concerning the after life. Most Christian groups believe in life after death, and most believe in a Heaven and Hell. However, there is much disagreement about how one will obtain Heaven instead of Hell. When we use the term salvation, we are using it in reference to a person being secured a place in Heaven. In other words, when you receive salvation, you have been rescued or delivered from the danger of everlasting punishment for your sins.

It is important to your growth that you understand salvation. It is important that you understand that the Bible teaches that when you get saved, you are given the gift of eternal life. This means that you cannot lose your salvation, and that once you are saved, you are always saved!

This lesson on Understanding Salvation will answer the following questions:

1. What was my condition before salvation?
2. What did I do to be saved?
3. What did God do when He saved me?

I. What was my condition before salvation?

Read the following verses and fill in the blanks.

1. Ephesians 2:1

I was spiritually d _ _ _ in trespasses and sins.

2. John 3:18

I was c _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ already. This means that I was guilty and worthy of punishment.

3. John 3:36

I had the w _ _ _ _ of God abiding on me. This means that God was extremely angry with me.

4. Revelation 20:15

I was headed for the l _ _ _ of _ _ _ _ . This is the punishment for sins. (See also Romans 6:23; Revelation 20:14, and Revelation 21:8.)

5. Luke 19:10

I was l _ _ _ , yet sought by Jesus.

In Conclusion:

My condition before salvation was that I was condemned to go to the lake of fire because of my sin. I was spiritually dead in my sins, and I had the wrath of God abiding on me.

In your own words, write what you learned from this portion of the lesson: _____

II. What did I do to be saved?

This section will cover what a person must do to be saved:

The purpose of this section is to drive home the understanding that the requirement for salvation is belief. This exercise is mainly to show you that the scriptures overwhelmingly confirm this teaching. Furthermore, this lesson should help you to understand how hearing and repentance work as a function of believing. We break this down into three parts in order to provide complete clarity as to what we are teaching.

Believe

Read through the list of verses and fill in the blanks. Notice what was required in each verse for salvation.

Verse List

- 1. John 3:16**, "...that whosoever _ _ _ _ _ in him should not perish..."
- 2. John 3:18**, "He that _ _ _ _ _ on him is not condemned..."
- 3. John 3:36**, "He that believeth on the _ _ _ hath everlasting life..."
- 4. Acts 13:39**, "And by him all that believe are _ _ _ _ _ from all things..."
- 5. Acts 16:31**, "..._ _ _ _ _ on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be _ _ _ _ _."

6. **Romans 3:22**, “Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that _____.”
7. **Romans 4:24**, “But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we _____ on him...”
8. **I Corinthians 1:21**, “...it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to _____ them that _____.”
9. **Galatians 3:22**, “...that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to _____ that _____.”
10. **Ephesians 1:13**, “...in whom also after that ye _____, ye were sealed with that _____ Spirit of promise.
11. **I John 5:13**, “These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the _____ of _____; that ye may know that ye have _____ life...”

We have just demonstrated that the one thing a person must do to be saved is to believe. Now, we shall look at verses that teach that in order for a person to believe they must first hear. Remember that hearing is not just done with the ears.

Examples:

1. If someone reads and comprehends, then they have heard.
2. A deaf person does not hear with his ears, instead he hears through sign language.

3. A person who only speaks English may listen to someone speak in a foreign language. They are hearing the sounds made, but they are not hearing the message. This is the same example given in 1 Corinthians 14:2.

Hear

1. Romans 10:14

“...how shall they believe in him of whom they have not _____?”

2. Acts 2:37

Peter had just preached the truth about Christ to a group of Jews. They were pricked in their heart. That means they felt guilty concerning what they had just **heard**. They realized that they were wrong.

3. Acts 4:2-4

Peter and John were preaching about Jesus and the resurrection. Many of the people which _____ the word believed.

4. Acts 10:1-5, 22, 44

_____ is told to get Simon Peter. Peter comes and preaches. All “which _____ the word” are saved as witnessed by the manifestation of the Holy Ghost.

5. Acts 15:7

“...that the Gentiles by my mouth should _____ the word of the gospel, and believe.”

6. Ephesians 1:13

“In whom ye also trusted, after that ye _____ the word of truth.”

In Conclusion: It is clearly evident from the verses that we just studied that in order for a person to be saved, they must _____ the truth of the gospel.

Repent

Repentance also plays a role in believing; however, repentance has been a sorely misunderstood subject among preachers, and it is a very misused word among many religious people. Our explanation of repentance will bring clarity to the meaning of repentance and explain how it relates to salvation. First let’s look at some verses on repentance.

1. Matthew 4:17

Jesus preached repentance.

2. Mark 1:15

This verse teaches us to _____ and believe.

3. Acts 3:19

Peter is telling the group of listeners to _____ and be converted.

Based on the preceding verses, it would be irresponsible for anyone to argue that repentance had nothing to do with salvation. The verses that we have just read clearly give repentance a role or part in salvation.

What does it mean to repent?

The word “repent” in all of the aforementioned verses is translated from the Greek word, “metanoeo.” This word means to have a change of mind or to think differently. When someone repents, they are having a change of mind.

For a person to be saved, they must repent. They must have a _____ of mind. Everyone has some belief about God and the afterlife. Some simply do not believe in God. Whether a person is trusting in a false god, or whether they are trusting in their own goodness, or whether they reject the idea of God, in order for that person to be saved, they must have a _____ of _____. They must repent.

In Conclusion

The Scriptures overwhelmingly teach that a person must simply _____ on Jesus Christ in order to be saved. When the Scriptures simply teach that belief is all that is needed for salvation, they are accurate because in order for someone to believe, hearing and repentance are necessary.

NOTE: To believe on Jesus Christ for salvation means more than to believe in the fact that He died, was buried, and that He rose again. To believe on Jesus Christ for salvation means that you put your trust or your faith in Him alone to save you.

EXAMPLE: If a person trusts in his own good works to take him to Heaven, his faith is not in Jesus Christ alone for his salvation. He may believe that Jesus died for his sins. This knowledge of what Jesus did does not save him. He must repent from trusting in his own good works and put his faith in Jesus Christ in order to be saved.

III. What did God do when He saved me?

1. Acts 13:39

God j_____ me from all things. This is something that the Law of Moses could not do. To be justified means to be judged innocent. God considers us innocent from all sin because of our faith in the blood of Jesus Christ that cleanses us from all sin.

2. John 3:16, 36; Romans 6:23

God gave me e_____ g life or e_____ l life.

3. Ephesians 1:13

God sealed me with the H_____ S_____ of promise. To seal something means to give proof. The Holy Spirit is God's proof that His promise is real and trustworthy. Every born-again believer has the Spirit abiding in him.

4. 2 Corinthians 5:17

God made me a _____ . Praise God for a new beginning as a child of God!

5. Titus 3:5

God r _ g _ _ _ _ t _ d and r _ n _ _ _ d me. Regeneration is rebirth. This is the second birth talked about in John 3. To renew means to make new. Notice it is the Holy Ghost that does this work, not the believer. The verse clearly states, "Not ... we ... but ... he saved us..."

6. I Corinthians 6:11

God w _ _ _ _ _ me, and God s _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ d me. Furthermore, this verse repeats the truth that God justifies us. To wash means to make clean. To sanctify means to set apart. Once you are saved, you belong to God's family; you are set apart to eternal life.

7. Colossians 1:14

God gave me f _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ ss of sins.

8. John 1:12; Galatians 3:26; Romans 8:16, 17

God gave me the p _ _ _ _ or the authority or the right to be called a child of God. That makes us joint-heirs with Jesus Christ the Son of God Himself!

9. Revelation 1:5, 6; I Peter 2:9

God has made us kings (or queens) and priests. We are royalty now and we have special access to God!

In Conclusion

Another way of looking at this same subject is to ask the question, "What is my condition now that I am saved?" Going back through the verses above, here is what one may determine:

VERSE

Acts 13:39

John 3:36

Ephesians 1:13

MY NEW CONDITION

I am **justified** or judged innocent!

I have **everlasting life**.

I am **sealed** by the Holy Ghost.

VERSE

MY NEW CONDITION

2 Corinthians 5:17

I am a **new creature!**

Titus 3:5

I am **regenerated** and **renewed**.

1 Corinthians 6:11

I am **washed, sanctified, and justified!**

Colossians 1:14

I am **forgiven!**

John 1:12

I am a **child of God!**

Revelation 1:6

I am a **king** and a **priest** of the Most High God!

Salvation is more than being saved. Yes, I have been **SAVED** from the fires of Hell, but God has done so much more than just that for those that trust Jesus Christ as Saviour. There is much more that can be said about this subject of salvation, but the verses you have just studied give a solid foundation for understanding your salvation.

In your own words, write what you learned from this portion of the lesson: _____

REVIEW – Understanding Salvation

- I. What was my condition before salvation?
 - A. I was spiritually d_ _ _ in trespasses and sins.
 - B. I was c_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ already. This means I was guilty and worthy of punishment.
 - C. I was headed for the lake of _ _ _ _ _.
 - D. I was l_ _ _ , yet sought by Jesus.

II. What did I do to be saved?

- A. The Scriptures overwhelmingly teach that a person must simply _____ in order to be saved. (Repentance and hearing are included in this.)
- B. According to Romans 10:14, a person must first _____ the truth before they can believe. Therefore, before someone can get saved, he must hear the truth of the gospel.
- C. Is repentance necessary in order to be saved? _____
- D. What does it mean to repent? _____
- E. What does it mean to believe on Jesus Christ for salvation? _____

III. What did God do when He saved me?

- A. God justified me from all things. What does it mean to be justified? _____
- B. God gave me _____ life.
- C. God sealed me with the H____ S_____ of promise.
- D. What does it mean to seal something? _____

- E. God made me a _____ creature.
- F. God regenerated me and renewed me. What does that mean? _____

G. God washed me and sanctified me. What does that mean? _____

H. God gave me forgiveness of _ _ _ _.

Assignment: Choose at least 2 of the following verses, memorize them, and say them to your teacher.

- John 3:36
- Ephesians 1:13
- Titus 3:5
- John 1:12

Application: What should you do based on the truth you learned in this lesson?

Your name: _____

Name of the person who encouraged you to begin this program: _____

Name of teacher: _____

Signature of teacher: _____

Date completed: _____