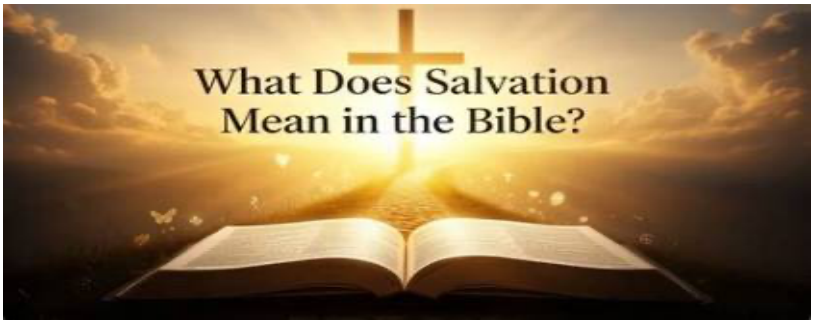


What Must We Do to Be Saved?

A Bible Lesson on a "Very Important Matter!"

Organized and Taught by Gerald Cumby

Eternal Revealing Question with a Simple Answer.

The most important question to be answered with respect to life, liberty, the pursuit of happiness, and the eternal destiny of one's soul IS "How can I be saved?"

After we have lived our lives here on planet Earth, we will journey to one of two places…HEAVEN OR HELL (not just my belief, but the truth according to Scripture). In fact, it is the truth according to JESUS.

- ✓ *The Bible is abundantly clear on how a person can be saved.*
- ✓ *Paul and Silas were asked by the Philippian jailer, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" (Acts 16:30).*
- ✓ *The response from Paul and Silas was, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved" (Acts 16:31).*

Why do I need to be saved?

Sin is an infection (physical, mental, spiritual) we ALL have (For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God, Romans 3:23).

- ***We ALL are born with a sin problem*** (*Psalm 51:5, "Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me.*),
- ***We all personally choose to sin*** (*Ecclesiastes 7:20, "For there is not a just man on earth who does good and does not sin," 1 John 1:8, "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.").*

- ✓ *Sin is what makes us unsaved.*
- ✓ *Sin is what separates us from God.*
- ✓ *Sin is what has us on the path to eternal destruction in a place called "Hell."*

What are we saved from? **How** can I be saved?

Due to the fact that we ALL are sinners, we ALL deserve death (Romans 6:23, "*For the wages of sin is death, but the [a]gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*").

- *The physical consequence of sin is physical death.*
- *That is not the only kind of death that results from sin. All sin is ultimately committed against an eternal and infinite God (Psalm 51:4, Against You, You only, have I sinned…"). Because of that,*
- *The just penalty for our sin is also eternal and infinite.*

  What we need to be saved from is eternal destruction of our soul. Matthew 25:46, *"And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."* Revelation 20:15, "*And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire."*
- ***The just penalty for sin is infinite, eternal, and with no 2nd chances (No Do-Overs).***

How did God provide salvation for His Masterpiece Creation?

Since God is infinite and eternal, only He could pay the penalty for sin.

- God, in His divine nature, could not die. So…God became a human being in the person of Jesus Christ.
- God took on human flesh, lived among us, and taught us. Jesus, fully God and fully man, lived a sinless life, died on the cross to pay the penalty for sin, and rose again, conquering death.
- The people, including God's Chosen People, rejected Him and His message (God's Son, Their Messiah), and sought to kill Him.
- Jesus, the Christ, God's Son, Messiah willingly sacrificed Himself for us, allowing Himself to be crucified (John 10:15, "*As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.").*
- Since Jesus Christ was human, He could die; and because Jesus Christ was God, His death had eternal and infinite value.

- Jesus' death on the cross was the perfect, complete and final payment for our sin (1 John 2:2, *"And He Himself is the propitiation (price paid/appeasement) for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.*) taking and receiving the consequences of sin we deserved. There is a cost for something of value…HE VALUED US AS HIS BROTHERS AND SISTERS.
- Jesus' RESURRECTION from the dead demonstrated that His death was "without a shadow of doubt" the perfectly sufficient ATONING sacrifice for sin.
- The Triune God planned for our salvation. God, the Father, provided it; Jesus, the Son poured out His blood for it, and the Holy Spirit prompts and promotes our spirit man to respond to the call for salvation.

What do I need to do?

- *"Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved" (Acts 16:31*).
- God has already done all of the work.
- *All you must do is receive, in faith, the salvation God offers (Ephesians 2:8-9).*
- Repent…Fully trust in Jesus alone as the payment for your sins. ***Matthew 9:13**, "But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice.' For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to **repent**ance."*
- Believe in Him, and you/me will not perish (*John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life"*). God is offering us salvation as a gift. All we have to do is accept it. Jesus is the way of salvation *(John 14:6, Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.").*

What are the steps to Salvation?

Many people are looking for "steps to salvation."

- ✓ ***People like an instruction manual with five or six steps that, if followed, will result in salvation and all that heaven offers.***
  - ✓ The religion of Islam has Five Pillars (Steps); if the Five Pillars are obeyed, salvation will be granted (Like they really believe it…and there are no exceptions to the rules/steps).
  - ✓ Roman Catholicism has seven sacraments that need to be kept.
  - ✓ Various Christian denominations add various steps such as baptism, speaking in tongues, tithing, etc., as the way to salvation.

But the Bible only declares a simple plan for salvation. When asked, "What must I do to be saved?" Paul and Silas responded, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved" (Acts 16:30–31).

- ✓ **Believing entails:**
  - Confessing with your mouth the Lord Jesus; (Romans 10:9).
  - Heart change (*Jesus said, "Ye must be born again."), John 3:3-8.*
  - *Repent: "Repent…For the Kingdom of God is at hand."*
- ✓ **Faith in Jesus Christ as the Savior is the only "step" to salvation.**
  - Yes, Christians should be baptized.
  - Yes, Christians should confess to the world around him/her that they have been saved.
  - Yes, Christians should practice good works and obey God.

All of these are the results of salvation…not the salvation equation that gives us the way. No steps…just total commitment to Jesus.
Only God could accomplish our salvation, and therefore…He did!

God Himself completed the "steps" for us. He offers salvation to anyone who will receive it from Him by faith.

> One day some men came to Jesus with a question about taking steps to secure their salvation: "What must we do to do the works God requires?" they asked (John 6:28). Jesus' answer was simple: "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent" (verse 29). That is the only "work": believe.

According to Jesus, a person is saved by believing in Him (John 3:16), being "born again" by the Spirit (John 3:5), repenting, and following Him as Lord (John 14:6). These teachings appear directly in the Gospels and are affirmed throughout Scripture.

Why Should we be saved? What are we saved from? When should we claim our inheritance? Where are we going after we die? Who provides for our salvation?

The "W" questions of life.