

Topic: Salvation discovered!

Acts 16:25 - 32 (NASB)

²⁸BUT PAUL CRIED OUT WITH A LOUD VOICE, SAYING, "DO NOT HARM YOURSELF, FOR WE ARE ALL HERE!" ²⁹AND HE CALLED FOR LIGHTS AND RUSHED IN, AND TREMBLING WITH FEAR HE FELL DOWN BEFORE PAUL AND SILAS, ³⁰AND AFTER HE BROUGHT THEM OUT, HE SAID, "SIRS, WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?"

³¹THEY SAID, "BELIEVE IN THE LORD JESUS, AND YOU WILL BE SAVED, YOU AND YOUR HOUSEHOLD." ³²AND THEY SPOKE THE WORD OF THE LORD TO HIM TOGETHER WITH ALL WHO WERE IN HIS HOUSE.

Last week: Saved from what?

Answer: Sin, death and hell. (*Habitual sin, eternal death and the Lake of Fire!*)

Job 15:14 & 16 (NASB) ¹⁴ "What is man, that he should be pure, or he who is born of a woman, that he should be righteous?"

¹⁶ How much less one who is detestable and corrupt, Man, who drinks iniquity like water!

Jeremiah 17:9 says that "the heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; who can understand it."

WHAT IS REALLY CONSIDERED SIN?

1 Cor 6:9 - 10 (NLT) ⁹Don't you realize that those who do wrong will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Don't fool yourselves. Those who indulge in sexual sin, or who worship idols, or commit adultery, or are male prostitutes, or practice homosexuality, ¹⁰or are thieves, or greedy people, or drunkards, or are abusive, or cheat people—none of these will inherit the Kingdom of God.

Gal 5:19 - 25 (NLT) ¹⁹When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, ²⁰idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, ²¹envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God. ²²But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things! ²⁴Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there. ²⁵Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives.

Eph 2:1 - 5 (NLT) ¹Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. ²You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. ³All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God's anger, just like everyone else. ⁴But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, ⁵that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!)

James 4:17 (NLT) ¹⁷Remember, it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it.

This week: **How are we saved?**

Through Jesus, in Jesus and by Jesus!

Eph 2:8 - 10 (NASB)

⁸FOR BY GRACE YOU HAVE BEEN SAVED THROUGH FAITH; AND THAT NOT OF YOURSELVES, *IT IS* THE GIFT OF GOD;

⁹NOT AS A RESULT OF WORKS, SO THAT NO ONE MAY BOAST.

¹⁰FOR WE ARE HIS WORKMANSHIP, CREATED IN CHRIST JESUS FOR GOOD WORKS, WHICH GOD PREPARED BEFOREHAND SO THAT WE WOULD WALK IN THEM.

Titus 3:4 - 7 (NASB)

⁴BUT WHEN THE KINDNESS OF GOD OUR SAVIOR AND *HIS* LOVE FOR MANKIND APPEARED,

⁵HE SAVED US, NOT ON THE BASIS OF DEEDS WHICH WE HAVE DONE IN RIGHTEOUSNESS, BUT ACCORDING TO HIS MERCY, BY THE WASHING OF REGENERATION AND RENEWING BY THE HOLY SPIRIT,

⁶WHOM HE Poured OUT UPON US RICHLY THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR SAVIOR,

⁷SO THAT BEING JUSTIFIED BY HIS GRACE WE WOULD BE MADE HEIRS ACCORDING TO *THE* HOPE OF ETERNAL LIFE.

ANSWER: BELIEVE IN THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

1. Believe that He is who He claimed to be.

The apostle John wrote, "THESE HAVE BEEN WRITTEN THAT YOU MAY BELIEVE THAT JESUS IS THE CHRIST, THE SON OF GOD; AND THAT BELIEVING YOU MAY HAVE LIFE IN HIS NAME" (John 20:31).

2. Believe in what He said.

John 14:6 (NASB)

⁶JESUS SAID* TO HIM, "I AM THE WAY, AND THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE; NO ONE COMES TO THE FATHER BUT THROUGH ME.

3. Believe in what He did.

Paul succinctly summarized the work of Christ in 1 Cor.15:3-4:
FOR I DELIVERED TO YOU AS OF FIRST IMPORTANCE WHAT I ALSO RECEIVED, THAT CHRIST DIED FOR OUR SINS ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURES, AND THAT HE WAS BURIED, AND THAT HE WAS RAISED ON THE THIRD DAY ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURES.

The exclusivity of salvation:

- If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved; for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. (Rom. 10:9-10)
- **Acts 4:12 (NASB)** ¹²“And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.”

Monday Morning Moment

He saved us from the gutter most to the uttermost!

Isa 64:6 (KJV)

⁶But we are all as an unclean *thing*, and all our righteousness *are* as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

2 Cor 5:17 (NASB)

¹⁷Therefore if anyone is in Christ, *he is* a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

What did the Jailor mean?

It has been argued by some that the jailor had physical deliverance rather than the salvation of his soul in mind when he asked this question, but to me the evidence proves that this is not so:

1. Paul and Silas had been pointed out for "many days" in Philippi as men who proclaimed "the way of salvation" (Ver. 17,18).
2. The earthquake was over. He could hardly be seeking "salvation" from that.
3. None of the prisoners had escaped, so his life was no longer in danger.
4. The earthquake, the open prison doors, the non-escape of the prisoners, all of which would have insured his ruin and Paul's plea for his life when he was about to commit suicide; all this would tend to make him seek more than physical deliverance.
5. Paul and Silas evidently took the jailor to mean that he sought salvation from sin. They would not have promised physical deliverance in return for faith in Christ.
6. The tender conversation of the converted jailor toward the men he had so abused, and his joy when he "with all his house," did believe, would seem to indicate that he had been under conviction of sin.
7. The references to the jailor's "house" (Ver. 31,32,33,34) harmonize with the cases of Cornelius (11:14) and Lydia (16:15) where salvation from sin was certainly in question.

Acts 11:14 (NASB) ¹⁴and he will speak words to you by which you will be saved, you and all your household.'

Acts 16:15 (NASB) ¹⁵And when she and her household had been baptized, she urged us,

saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house and stay." And she prevailed upon us.

The answer to life's biggest question:

"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved" (Ver. 31).

This is the core of the message of grace.

- When "the people" had asked John the Baptist: ***"What shall we do then?"*** he insisted upon the fruits of repentance and of the kingdom (Luke 3:9-11).
- When a lawyer had asked our Lord: "What shall I do to inherit eternal life?" the Lord asked him: "What is written in the law?" and had instructed him: "This do, and thou shalt live" (Luke 10:25-28).
- When Peter's convicted hearers at Pentecost had asked: "What shall we do?" Peter had directed them to "repent and be baptized ... for the remission of sins" (Acts 2:37, 38).
- But now, under Paul, the clear, pointed message is: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved." No matter what your sin, no matter what your ignorance, no matter what your fears about "holding on"-----
"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved."

Whether to the child, with a lifetime of opportunity before him, or to the dying man with only a few moments to live, the message is still: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved."