



## Salvation

Have you ever felt any tightness in your chest? Loss of breath? Pain? I'm sure if you did feel any of these at this moment you would not hesitate to rush immediately down to the Hospital to have things checked out. But my question to you is.... Why? Why would you rush to the Hospital? Why would you not wait? Well, I'm sure you would probably look at me and say well duh! I'm having a Heart Attack, I might DIE! To which I would respond **exactly**. We do not play around when it comes to our physical life. We love each and every moment we get to spend and share with our family and friends. To lose all of these things would be devastating.

Now, let me ask you something, because I have no idea where you are spiritually, but is your Spiritual Heart healthy? Or is it all clogged up, and not able to pump because of Sin? Are you now in the category of being the prime target for what we call the Widow Maker? You see, there is one thing you as the reader cannot do... and that is deny that death is coming. The Hebrew author clearly states: that " . . . man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment..." (Hebrews 9:27).

I'm not sure how many funerals you have been to, but I will tell you this, I have been to more funerals that were a shock and a surprise to the family than to ones where they were expected. We do not have a clue when we will breathe our last. But it is this moment that we must all be ready for because just as the Hebrew author stated, there is a time of judgment immediately afterwards. Sadly many people when they face the judgment, they will not go to heaven because they have Sinned, they have deliberately broken the will of God (1 John 3:4). Because of this sin they have sided with Satan and have ignored a Holy God.

As a result of siding with Satan, they will now have no other choice but to be punished. You see, this punishment is Hell. It is often believed that some might have a second chance in a place known as purgatory and thus people faithfully try to pray their lost loved ones out. However such an idea isn't present in scripture. I encourage you to look at the account of the Rich Man and Lazarus (Luke 16). Once he died his fate was sealed, there was no second chance. This is the second reason why Salvation is so important and so vital. Not only because we die and are judged, but because once we die there isn't another chance to correct how we have chosen to live our lives.

So, when it comes to teaching, preaching and believing something about salvation it is vital that we get it right! Because if it's not right, we will not make it. And it is up to us individually to read and to study to make sure that we have our Salvation in order. Allow me to explain it this way, if I am having a Heart attack I can't just take any kind of medicine that I want. For example, taking Alka-Seltzer, Tums, Pepto-Bismol, or anything else that isn't heart related will not work, no matter how bad I hope and believe it will. The reason, is because it wasn't designed for that purpose!

You see the same thing happens when people are dealing with salvation. So many people try all kinds of different doctrines, beliefs, and practices, and yes even "gods" however

none of these foreign and non-biblical approaches will take care of the Spiritual heart problem known as sin. It is only through Jesus Christ the Messiah that was sent into the world that we can be saved (John 14:6/Acts 4:12). It is also only through His blood that our sin can be washed away. This is something that no other being, object or anything else can offer or do for an individual.

The next concern we have is how does one come in contact with the Blood of Jesus Christ? In order to know and to find this answer we must consult our only guide, the Bible. We consult this book because it is inspired, and is revealed from Heaven and God clearly stated that all “. . . Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness . . .” (2 Timothy 3:16 NIV.) The Bible clearly shows that there are many different things that are necessary for salvation, they are listed and discussed below in detail:

### 1. Faith

Faith is defined by the Hebrew writer as “. . . being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for. By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible. . .” He goes on to say “(6) And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.” (Hebrews 11:1-3, 6 NIV.)

Biblical Faith, is made up of two different components, that are necessary in order to work, like the two blades on scissors. The first component of faith is **Assent** it is the belief that something is true. For example that the Titanic sank, that you are putting gasoline into your car, and that electricity can kill. All of these things are not accepted blindly, but they are accepted because they are based upon facts and evidence. The second aspect of faith is **Trust**. This takes the belief one has and puts it into something or someone. It is a total surrender of ones being.

It is both of these things that must take place when coming to Jesus, we must believe Jesus is who He claimed to be, that He is both Lord and Savior and that He has the power to save us from our sins, but just believing this alone doesn't save (James 2), instead there must be a total surrender to Jesus that takes place by us getting off the throne of our hearts and allowing Jesus to have it.

### 2. Repentance

The second step after one comes to a realization of who Jesus is, is we must also see the danger of sin that was presented above, that they have sinned (Romans 3:23) and that they as a result will be separated from God (Isa. 59:2) and will spend eternity in Hell (Romans 6:23). When an individual sees what they have done in rebelling against a Holy God they **must be convicted** of their sins (Acts 2:37) and they **must change** the way that they are currently living (Luke 13:3). Repentance is when we quit living how we want and instead living how God wants us to

### 3. Immersion

It is up to this point that many of your major main line churches agree. However, this is where the Restoration Movement Christian Churches and Churches of Christ and the denominations have their doctrinal differences. It has always been our desire, as Restoration Movement churches to stick as close as possible to the Bible as we can. It is our hope that as you study this issue that you will make this your desire as well, to seek Biblical Truth no matter where it takes us. I will spend more time diving into this than I will the others, because I understand the controversial nature of it within Christianity as a whole.

Baptism as most churches call it was originally known to the New Testament Church as Immersion. Let's take a look at what the scriptures state concerning all of this:

"He who has believed<sup>G4100</sup> and has been baptized<sup>G907</sup> shall be saved<sup>G4982</sup>; but he who has disbelieved<sup>G569</sup> shall be condemned<sup>G2632</sup>.  
(Mark 16:16 NASB+.)

Peter<sup>G4074</sup> said to them, "Repent<sup>G3340</sup>, and each<sup>G1538</sup> of you be baptized<sup>G907</sup> in the name<sup>G3686</sup> of Jesus<sup>G2424</sup> Christ<sup>G5547</sup> for the forgiveness<sup>G859</sup> of your sins<sup>G266</sup>; and you will receive<sup>G2983</sup> the gift<sup>G1431</sup> of the Holy<sup>G40</sup> Spirit<sup>G4151</sup>.  
(Acts 2:38 NASB+.)

As they went<sup>G4198</sup> along<sup>G2596</sup> the road<sup>G3598</sup> they came<sup>G2064</sup> to some<sup>G5100</sup> water<sup>G5204</sup>; and the eunuch<sup>G2135</sup> said<sup>G5346</sup>, "Look<sup>G2400</sup>! Water<sup>G5204</sup>! What<sup>G5101</sup> prevents<sup>G2967</sup> me from being baptized<sup>G907</sup>?"  
(Acts 8:36 NASB+.)

'Now<sup>G3568</sup> why<sup>G5101</sup> do you delay<sup>G3195</sup>? Get<sup>G450</sup> up and be baptized<sup>G907</sup>, and wash<sup>G628</sup> away<sup>G628</sup> your sins<sup>G266</sup>, calling<sup>G1941</sup> on His name<sup>G3686</sup>.  
(Acts 22:16 NASB+.)

Each of these scriptures are from a special Greek version of the New American Standard Version. The NASB is the best and most literal Greek to English version that we currently have, however because it is a literal translation it doesn't always flow like the NIV. However in this Greek version of the NASB they have numbers next to the words that correspond to their Greek counterpart. If you look closely you can see that next to the word "baptized" in each scripture is the number "907". The Thayer's Greek Dictionary and 99% of all other Greek dictionaries define this in a similar fashion:

## G907

βαπτίζω

baptizō

### Thayer Definition:

- 1) to dip repeatedly, to immerse, to submerge (of vessels sunk)
- 2) to cleanse by dipping or submerging, to wash, to make clean with water, to wash one's self, bathe
- 3) to overwhelm

But let me ask this, can we come up with Baptism by Immersion even if we don't have the Greek? The answer is yes. Notice the following two scriptures:

After being baptized, Jesus **came up immediately from the water**, and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove *and* lighting on Him,  
(Matthew 3:16 NASB.)

And he ordered the chariot to stop; and they both went **down into the water**, Philip as well as the eunuch, and he baptized him. When they **came up out of the water**, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; and the eunuch no longer saw him, but went on his way rejoicing.  
(Acts 8:38-39 NASB.)

Notice how in both of these scriptures that it states that the person being baptized "came up immediately from the water" and also that they "went down into the water". Now, if they were sprinkled or poured these phrases wouldn't make any sense, and it also wouldn't make any

sense that Paul would compare it to a burial (Romans 6) or that Peter would compare it to a global flood (1 Peter 3).

But not only should we look at the mode or the method of Baptism, but in order to see the essential nature of it, it is crucial that we see what happens when we are immersed:

1. **Forgiveness of Sins** – Acts 2:38
2. **To Receive the Gift of the Holy Spirit** – Acts 2:38
3. **Get into Christ / Clothe Yourself with Christ** – Galatians 3:27
4. **United in His Death Burial and Resurrection** – Romans 6
5. **Cleanses the Conscience** – 1 Peter 3:21
6. **All Disciples were to Be Baptized** – Matthew 28:18-20
7. **3,000 were baptized** – Acts 2:41
8. **Commanded By Peter to the Household of Cornelius**– Acts 10:48

**With this in mind, also look at the following chart by Dr. Hoyt Allen Jr. (Stapled to back of this sheet)**

After you have viewed the “Conversion Chart”, I hope that you will sit and think again about whether or not Immersion is necessary. After all it is the only way in which we receive those items mentioned above in #'s 1-5, and allow me to ask you this, how can one be saved if they haven't received the forgiveness of sins, the Gift of the Holy Spirit, if they are not in Christ is salvation possible? Remember, consult the Bible alone, not man. According to Scripture Salvation is not possible without Immersion in conjunction with Faith, Repentance, confession and a Faithful life. Salvation is like a cake in the sense that it must have all the ingredients in order to work because they all work together and each has a specific purpose!

#### **4. Faithfulness**

The last necessary requirement for a person who has become a Christian is for them to remain faithful. Notice what Jesus states in Revelation:

**'Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.  
(Revelation 2:10 NASB.)**

The word “crown” here, is something that we must not ignore. This word doesn't have an individual like King Arthur in mind, but instead it has the Olympics in mind. You see in New Testament times athletes would run and they would run to win the race, as a result the winner of the race would receive a crown as their “trophy”. The message that Jesus is trying to get across to us who seek to become Christians is that if we are going to obtain Heaven, then we must run this race called life, and we must be faithful even if it requires us to give up our very lives. If we are not faithful, then we forfeit the crown and the rewards that come with it. Becoming a Christian is a lifelong journey of growing and learning, it is also made up of pot holes where we will fall but will have to pick ourselves back up. I encourage you to take your time and study all that is contained in this packet, and to compare all things to the New Testament. Let's return to being people of the Bible!