

## WHAT IT TAKES TO BE SAVED

Acts 16:23-34

(Not entirely original with me)

**Introduction:** The clearest example of how a person is saved is found in the experience a man once had with two prisoners. The man was the Captain, in charge of those in prison and the two prisoners involved in this man's salvation are Paul and Silas. The text leaves nothing out and has been used countless times to help people be saved. There are two main points: "What Sinners Must Not Do To Be Saved" and "What Sinners Must Do To Be Saved." Pastors, hopefully these thoughts will be of help in helping your Church family in witnessing.

### I. WHAT SINNERS MUST NOT DO TO BE SAVED

1. They must not think that there is nothing that they have to do.
  - If people think that they have nothing to do to be saved, then they are probably never going to be saved.
  - The man in the text cried out: *"...What must I do to be saved?"*
2. One should never mistake what he/she has to do to be saved.
  - God requires exact things, therefore one must do what GOD says and not be deceived.
3. One should never say or imagine that he/she cannot ever do what God requires.
  - One must always assume that God is not demanding the impossible for to do so is fatal to salvation.
4. One should never delay or put off being saved.
  - Good intentions are not actually doing anything.
  - Planning to be saved later is a delusion and is fatal.
  - Satan will work very hard to get a person to delay being saved and he is very good at it.
  - As long as a person delays, procrastinates being saved, he/she is playing the fool.
5. If one is to be saved, he/she must not wait for God to do what He commands one to do to be saved.
  - God has already done all He can for people to be saved.
    - Long ago God worked out a plan whereby people could be saved.
    - God gave His Son, Jesus, to die for all sinners, thereby making a way for the lost sinner to be forgiven and restored.
    - God has given the Bible, His Holy Word, and the Holy Spirit to show what one needs to be saved.
  - There are things which God just cannot do for one to be saved.
    - God requires each person to repent and have faith in Jesus and it is impossible for anyone else to do that for another person.
      - Each person has to voluntarily exercise his/her own mind to do what God requires.
6. If one is to be saved, he/she must not wait for God to do anything whatsoever.
  - There is nothing to be waited for - God has already done all of His part.
  - What remains to be done is what each person must do him/herself.
7. If one is to be saved, then he/she must not turn to lies.
  - It is truth, not lies that alone can save a person.
  - People must be sanctified by the truth.
8. If one is to be saved, then he/she must not look for some self-pleasing way, for most don't want to admit that they are really in need of help.
  - People cannot be saved in some easy, self-pleasing way.
9. No one should ever imagine that he/she will have a more favorable time to be saved.
  - Some may want more conviction, fewer obstacles and less hindrances.
    - Remember Felix in the Scriptures? He didn't intend to forego salvation, like anybody else, but he was busy and wanted to find a more convenient time to continue.

10. No one should suppose that there will be a time just as good as the present time in which he/she can repent as well then as now.
  - Some want to wait a while to repent and give up a particular sin.
  - However, God requires that one break off his/her sins now, not later.
11. If one is to be saved, then he/she must not wait to see what someone else will do or say.
  - Some could be concerned about what a family member or close friend might say, let them say what they please for salvation is far more important than anything anyone might say or do.
12. If one is to be saved, then he/she must put aside all prejudices against God and other Christians.
  - Give up all hostile feelings where one has been really hurt.
  - Do not stumble at the prejudices of others.
  - Do not hold on to anything which could be unlawful.
  - Do not look at others who profess to be Christians, waiting for them to show some proof.
  - Do not depend upon other Christians to influence in any way.
  - Do not look for stumbling blocks.
  - Do not tempt the patience of God.
  - Do not think that there is no mercy left for anyone.
  - Do not wait to be convicted more.
  - Do not wait for some different feelings.
  - Do not wait to be better prepared.
  - Do not wait, thinking God will change your heart.
  - Do not try to recommend yourself to God in any way.
  - Don't rely on anything else other than Jesus Christ and Him Crucified.
  - If one is to be saved, he/she must not listen to try to make one think that he/she is not so bad.
  - If one's conscience convicts him/her of sin, don't let anybody try to take away the discomfort.
  - Do not think that being saved will interfere with one's daily duties of life.
  - If one is to be saved, then one must not pay any attention to anything that would hinder being saved.

## **II. WHAT SINNERS MUST DO TO BE SAVED**

1. One must understand what he/she has to do.
2. One must return and confess his/her sins to God - ALL SINS!
3. One must renounce him/herself:
  - one's own righteousness.
  - one's ideas that he/she has done enough good to be recommended to God.
  - one's own will.
  - one's own way.
4. One must come to the Lord Jesus Christ.
  - One must accept Jesus Christ as fully, completely, totally one's Savior.
  - One must renounce any thought of depending upon anything he/she has done or might do.
5. One must seek supremely to please the Lord Jesus Christ and not him/herself.
  - One must come to a state of mind in which there will be no greater pleasure/joy than to do God's will.
6. There must be total confidence in the Lord Jesus Christ or one cannot be saved.
7. One must forsake all that he/she has or he/she cannot be a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ.
8. One must believe what the Scriptures say about God giving His only begotten Son.
9. If one is to be saved, then he/she must accept a prepared salvation, prepared in full and present.
  - One must be willing to give up all his/her sins, to be saved from them all, forever more.

## **CONCLUSION:**

1. Paul made it very clear that one "must believe on the Lord Jesus Christ to be saved as the only condition of being saved.
2. One must be careful to not let "being saved" slip away.
3. Being saved is the most important thing in a person's life and it should be given all priority.
4. Note that the jailer in the text did not make any excuse nor was he told by Paul that he needed some help in believing and repenting.
5. Note that the jailer made no delay or wanted to wait for a better time.
6. If a person never becomes a Christian after hearing what God requires, the reason will be because one will not believe the gospel with all his/her heart.
7. Once a person has been told what he/she must do and what he/she must do to be saved, a decision needs to be made immediately.
8. To be saved, one must choose between pleasing him/herself or pleasing God.
9. Have YOU been saved?