

SOME DO'S AND DON'TS ABOUT BEING SAVED

Acts 16:22-31 (v30)

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: It would seem that there are a lot of different thoughts and ideas about being saved. No doubt there are a lot of personal thoughts and things affecting a person's decision to be or not be saved. There are few messages such as this one which deal with some "don'ts" involved with being saved. Most messages about salvation and being saved deal with what Jesus has done for us to be saved and what we need to believe in order to be saved. There are many who wrestle with their conviction to be saved and sadly, have not been saved. This message is intended to help recognize some of the things involved in being saved. Our scripture is very descriptive in one man's conviction of needing to be saved.

I.. SOME DON'TS ABOUT BEING SAVED

1. Don't think that there's nothing one has to do to be saved.
 - The jailer in the text knew there had to be "something" he had to do to be saved.
2. Don't make a mistake in what you do have to do.
 - To be saved, one has to do EXACTLY what God says.
3. Don't think that you just cannot do what God says you have to do to be saved.
 - God has made it possible for EVERY human being to be saved.
4. Don't put off being saved.
 - Many put off being saved, saying "later, just not now."
 - People want to enjoy things as they are want to continue to be in charge.
 - Nothing is accomplished except one's own continued condemnation in putting off being saved.
5. Don't wait for God to do what He says for you to do.
 - God has already done all He can do and is waiting for you to make up your mind.
 - God gave His Son to die.
 - God has sent His Holy Spirit to convict you.
 - Only YOU can do for YOU what you need to do to be saved.
6. Don't wait, for there's nothing to wait for.
 - God has done His part.
 - Jesus has done His part.
 - The Holy Spirit has done His part.
 - Now is the time for you to do your part.
7. Don't hide behind a bunch of untruths, lies. The Bible is the ONLY true source of teaching about being saved.
8. Don't try to think up some other, easier way to be saved.
 - Nothing can be changed in order to be saved - it must be God's way or NO way.
9. Don't think that there will a more favorable time.
 - Perhaps more conviction?
 - Perhaps a more convenient time?
 - Perhaps when there is less hindrances?
 - Hell has countless people in it already who waited for a more favorable time.
10. Don't wait to see what others might think, do or say.
 - What will my family think if I get saved?
 - What will my friends think if I get saved?

- YOU are responsible to God, not anybody else. Others are also responsible to God.
11. Don't hold grudges against God or His pastors or His Church or Christians.
 - Forming negative opinions only hardens the mind and soul.
 - Give up any hostile feelings where you have been hurt.
 - Pay no attention to the prejudices of others.
 - Don't compare other Christians with each other.
 - Don't depend upon some other Christian's actions on your behalf.
 - Don't try to make excuses.
 - Don't look for weak and stumbling Christians.
 - Don't tempt the patience of God.
 - Don't think that God can't deal with you.
 - Don't wait for more "conviction."
 - Don't wait for some different kind of feeling.
 - Don't wait to get more "ready."
 - Don't wait for God to make some kind of change in your heart.
 - Don't pay any attention to anything or anybody that/who might hinder you.

II. SOME DO'S ABOUT BEING SAVED

1. You must understand what you have to do.
 - You must return to God.
2. You must confess, admit, that you have been wrong and God has been right.
 - You must go to any you have hurt in any way and make amends.
 - You must be sincere and thorough.
3. You must put yourself down - renounce yourself.
 - You must discard any idea that you are as good as anybody else.
 - You must give up the idea that any good you have done will commend you to God.
4. You must surrender your own will and that you will obey God's will from now on.
 - You must allow God to have His own way in every part of your life.
5. You must do your best to please Jesus Christ and not yourself or anybody else.
 - You must seek with all your heart to please God.
6. You must put all confidence and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - You must believe His words of promise and put them into practice.
7. You must give up everything (family included) for the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - There must be absolute and total self-denial.
 - Jesus must come first in every facet of your life.
8. You must believe what God has done for you through His Son, Jesus Christ.
 - ***"...This is the record, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son..."***
9. You must accept a salvation that is already prepared, full and present and be willing to give up all your sins and be saved from them, now and forever more.

CONCLUSION:

1. Take care that you do not continue to sin willfully after saying you understand the truth concerning how to be saved.
2. Do not wait for a second before doing what God says. Make up your mind immediately, why not?
3. Think about being saved as you would the greatest and most important decision you will ever make.
4. The jailer immediately made his decision upon learning what he needed to do to be saved.
5. The promises of God for being saved are to be believed and belong to any who will believe them.
6. YOU have now been told what you don't need to do and what you need to do to be saved.
 - Are you ready to act right now?
 - Do you want to please God or yourself?
 - Will you act as quickly and simply as the jailer did?
7. So, what will you do right now?
8. ***"...Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved..."***