

## *How might we be saved?*

Many people have sat down to give an explanation of what God desires for us. Part of His desire is that we be redeemed so that we may enjoy a restored relationship with Him. Yet without Him we all are lost since each of us have sold ourselves into sin and therefore are far from God (Romans 3:23).

And so the question arises as to how might we escape our slavery to sin so that we may live a life worthy of God's true intention for us? We have found that on our own we can not do this; try as we might we need someone the size of God in order to rescue us from our predicament. And this He did through Jesus Christ so that now by Him, and in Him, we may be saved. Let me repeat this again, apart from Jesus Christ neither you nor I can be saved, only by entering into Him do we find salvation.

So the question remains of how are we to do this? Some say this happens when we simply center ourselves on Jesus, others say that faith in Jesus as the Christ is all that is needed for our salvation, while some others teach that a person must say a prayer of repentance in order to come into Christ.

So we still need an answer to our question of how and when a person comes into Christ. May I suggest that God has given us His revelation for a reason, for our well-being, in order that we might know Him more completely? Peter wrote, "***His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence***" (II Peter 1:3). This "***true knowledge***" is found the Bible- God's message to mankind. Or as a dear friend once said, Bible stands for -**Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth**. And God wants us to search His basic instructions so that we will be familiar not only with Him and with who we are, but also with His plan of salvation; in it we will find the answer to our question.

In an effort to lead people in their search of God's word I have provided the following work sheet. Please, take your time working through these questions so that you have proper time to consider what God has in store for those who truly love Him. Remember what the apostle Paul said about the church in Berea, he considered them more noble because they were eager to hear his words and also searched the Scriptures to see if what he had said was true (Acts 17:11). And you too will be blessed if you do the same.

## *The Way of Salvation*

- 1) Read Hebrew chapter 8. In verse 13, what does the author say has passed away, and what now has come?
- 2) In the gospel of John, chapter 3, verses 3-5, Jesus said that two things need to happen in order for any of us to see the kingdom of God. What were they?
- 3) Then after speaking with Nicodemus, Jesus retreats to the region of Judea to do what (vs. 22)?

- 4) In chapter 2 of Acts we find devout Jewish men from all over the Roman Empire gathered in Jerusalem in order to worship God. These men find out from Peter that they too were counted with those responsible for killing God's chosen Christ. So they ask the question of what they must do in order to be restored to God. In verses 38-41 Peter gives these men an answer, what was it and was it different from what Jesus had earlier given to Nicodemus (Jn. 3:3-5)?
- 5) Peter, speaking by the Spirit of God, says something more than just forgiveness of sins would be given to those who followed this directive. What was it?
- 6) And who is this available to?
- 7) Read Acts 18:24-28. In verse 25 what did Apollos know? What didn't he know (vs. 26)?
- 8) In Acts 19 what kind of baptism (or, into whose name) were these disciples baptized into? In verse 5 into whose name did they need to be baptized in order to receive the Holy Spirit? Is this different from what Peter told the crowds in Acts 2:38?
- 9) In Colossians 2:11-14 God says that we put off our sinful nature by what means? And goes on to say that through this same process we become alive with whom?
- 10) In I Peter 3:20-21, Peter uses the example of Noah and then applies it to ourselves saying that we are now saved by what? And what does this become on our part?
- 11) In Romans 6:3-7 Paul argues that two things take place in baptism, first we are baptized into \_\_\_\_\_ death, so that our old self has been \_\_\_\_\_ with Him. And then because of this we now have an opportunity to live a \_\_\_\_\_ life.
- 12) Ephesians 2:1-9 is a powerful passage. It says that what we have received is not from our own efforts (work) but is a \_\_\_\_\_ of God (vs. 8). And says that we are made \_\_\_\_\_ with Christ (vs. 5), and that God \_\_\_\_\_ us up with Christ (vs. 6). Yet, this passage goes on to say that this is not from ourselves, but from \_\_\_\_\_.
- 13) Therefore when a person is baptized into Christ's name they are then joined with Christ- His life, death and resurrection. Now they too die, yet live again by the Spirit, so that they now can live a life that pleases God.
- 14) And like the eunuch in Acts 8:36, this life is available to you also, so what's your decision going to be?

## Answers

- 1) The old covenant faded away and the new covenant came. And with that the old way of doing things passed away and a new way appeared.
- 2) Born again, of water and of the Spirit.
- 3) He baptized people.
- 4) No, Peter just gave them a deeper explanation of what happens at baptism in Christ's name.
- 5) Forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit (vs. 38).
- 6) To everyone, "For all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God shall call to Himself."
- 7) He knew about John baptism but not the way of the God.
- 8) John's baptism (vs 3). In the name of Jesus Christ. No.
- 9) Baptism. Jesus Christ.
- 10) Baptism. An appeal to God.
- 11) Christ's, buried. New.
- 12) Gift. Alive, raises. God.
- 13) Galatians 3:27, II Corinthians 2:15a, and 5:17.
- 14) Your response?

### *Our Life After God's Salvation*

God wants us to be secure, protected, and guided. To do this He created the church, which should have more of the feel of a family than of an institution. The church gives us a place to grow and to use the new gifts that God gives to those who are His. Please read Ephesians 2:17-22, 4:11-16, 5:25-32, and then, Hebrews 10:19-25. God calls His people to be a community that cares about each other, and we can not do this apart and by ourselves. So find a local God fearing, people loving, Bible believing church to join and become active in.