

What Must I Do to Be Saved?

A good friend of mine in North Georgia had a saying concerning the things people have to say about various things. His remark was this, "You can hear everything but the meat frying". I am still not exactly sure what he meant by this, however, what I gathered from it was, you can hear everything but what is really important or true. In light of the saying, I believe it is especially true when it comes to an answer to the question, "What must I do to be saved?", you can hear everything but the meat frying!

The answer to "What must I do..." depends entirely upon whom you ask. Some 1st century Jewish Christians said circumcision was required in order to be saved, "*Ye must be circumcised, and keep the law: to whom we gave no such commandment*" (Acts 15:24). The teaching was false. God did not authorize such and if God does not authorize it, it is vain, "*But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men*" (Matthew 15:9). Martin Luther answered the question by stating that it was a matter of faith alone. John Calvin answered by saying there was nothing to do, it is a matter of predestination, you are either elected to salvation or you are not and there is nothing for you to do to change it. Billy Graham in his book, *How To Be Born Again* on pages 168 -169, lists four steps to salvation:

"First, you must recognize what God did. He loved you and sent His Son to die for you.

Second, you must repent of your sins, Luke 13:3.

Third, you must receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

Fourth, you must confess Christ publicly (Matt. 10:32). Make it happen now. If you are ready to receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior...pray this prayer, 'O God, I acknowledge that I have sinned against You. I am sorry for my sins. I am willing to turn from my sins. I openly receive and acknowledge Jesus Christ as my Savior. I confess Him as Lord...' "

The church of the 1st century understood that doctrines of men would not save. It is sad that so many people are being led unprepared into eternity because of the false teaching concerning the salvation question. Since this is a Bible question, hear what the Bible says, "*He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned*" (Mark 16:16). "*Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?* ³⁸*Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost*" (Acts 2:37,38). Furthermore, I am persuaded that no reasonable person would think for a minute that a person could be saved without having sins removed. "*And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord*" (Acts 22:16).

The question is the most important question a man can ask. The answer should be found in God's word. Nowhere in the New Testament did an alien sinner pray for his sins to be removed.

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