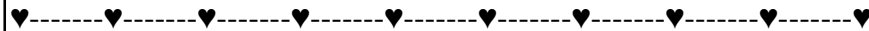


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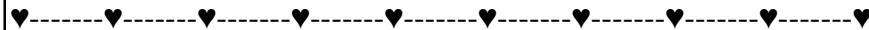
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GOD'S UNCHANGING PLAN OF SALVATION

Hear God's Word (Rom. 10:17)

Believe the truth (Mark 16:15, 16; Heb. 11:6)

Repent of all sins (Luke 13:3, 5)

Confess that Jesus is the Christ (Matt. 10:32)

Be **baptized** for the forgiveness of sins (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38)

Live a **faithful** life until death (Rev. 2:10b; 1 Tim. 4:7, 8)

Conversion accounts with some detail: Acts 2:37-42, 47; 8:5-13, 30-39; 9:6-18 cp. 22:16; 10:6, 44-48; 16:14, 15, 30-34.

♥ We admonish you: **believe** and **obey** the Lord (Heb. 5:8, 9) ♥



Who will be saved? Answer: Matt. 7:21



“Holding forth the word of life”



(Phil 2:16 cp. John 6:63, 68)

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Volume IV

December 2010

Number 4

How One Enters INTO Christ Where Salvation Is Found

by Perry Sexton

It should be of no surprise to us to learn that salvation is **IN** a certain place. We can read of several examples in the Old Testament concerning this. By the way, we are not under the Old Testament system today, but it has been preserved for us “for our learning” (Romans 15:4). All men today must serve God by following the New Covenant or Testament (Hebrews chapters 7-10, etc). Let us first go to the Old Testament and learn how it was then.

Our first example is that of **Noah** (please read Genesis 6ff). Salvation from the flood for Noah and all who accepted the gift had to enter **INTO** the ark. All on the outside of the ark perished. Salvation then was **IN** the ark. The eight souls who were saved by the grace of God (Genesis 6:8) by their faith, obeyed God in building the ark exactly as God said. And entered **INTO** the ark (Genesis 7:1), the place of salvation for them at that time (Genesis 6:22; Hebrews 11:7; I Peter 3:20 cp. 21). We learn that salvation was **IN** a certain place in Noah's day during the flood.

When Pharaoh refused to let the Israelites go, God sent plagues upon the Egyptians. The tenth plague was death to all the firstborn in the land of Egypt (Exodus 12:12). Salvation from the tenth plague for the Israelites was **IN** the houses with the blood on the door posts (Exodus 12:7,13). All those on the outside were affected by the plague. Again we learn from the Old Testament (Romans 15:4) that

God chose a definite place for salvation, but that place is not for us today. Remember also the spies Joshua sent to Jericho. They made an agreement with Rahab that the people IN her house would not be harmed only IF they remained IN her house during the battle (Joshua 2:16-21). Again, “for our learning” we see salvation was IN a certain place.

Dealing with our eternal soul’s salvation we find that the only place for salvation is “**in Christ**” (II Timothy 2:10). In fact, the Bible teaches that “all spiritual blessings” are “in Christ” (Ephesians 1:3). There is not one single spiritual blessing on the outside of Christ. Prayer is only for the faithful “in Christ” (James 5:16). All on the outside of Christ are lost and do not even have the right to pray to God (II Thessalonians 1:8; John 9:31 cp. Isaiah 59:1, 2). Grace and faith, which are so essential to our salvation, are found only “in Christ” (II Timothy 2:1; I Timothy 3:13). It is essential that each one learns the truth about salvation and obeys it (John 8:32; I Peter 1:22,23). Many are lost in religious error (cp. Matthew 7:13-23; 15:9,13,14; I John 4:1). Since our soul’s salvation can only be had “in Christ,” it behooves each one of us to learn how one enters INTO Christ. To be “in Christ” is to be in the church which was purchased with the blood of Christ (Acts 20:28 cp Acts 2:47).

The Bible is very plain on this matter. Water baptism “for the remission of sins” is the only means of entering INTO Christ, His church (Galatians 3:27; Romans 6:3 cp. Acts 2:37-47). There is only one way for man to be saved. We are saved “by grace ... through faith” (Ephesians 2:8). Grace is from God and we learn that grace teaches us (Titus 2:11,12) that there are certain things that man must do in order to be saved and other things man must not do IF he will be saved. We learn these things by studying God’s will for us. The “faith” must be obeyed (Romans 1:5; 16:26). The Romans obeyed “the faith,” the gospel (Romans 16:19 cp. chapter 6).

The first step is to HEAR the word of God (Romans 10:17). Hearing (reading and studying) the word of God is the only means of obtaining saving faith. To hear and obey the doctrines of man is to be lost eternally (Matthew 15:9,13,14). The next step is to

BELIEVE the word of God. By hearing the truth, man can obtain that saving faith which will move him to obey God as it did Noah (Mark 16:16 cp. Hebrews 11:6,7). The next logical step is to REPENT of sins, that is, stop sinning (Luke 13:3; cp. Titus 2:11,12). We must stop doing sinful things. It is not enough to just be sorry for sins (II Corinthians 7:10). The next step is to CONFESS that Jesus is the Christ the Son of God (Romans 10:10; Acts 8:37). Please note that confession is UNTO, not INTO. The final step of entering into Christ (His church) is WATER BAPTISM which is “for the remission of sins” (Acts 2:38,47; 22:16; Romans 6:3-6; I Peter 3:21).

Dear reader, it is our prayer that you will study these things carefully. Our plea is that you believe what God teaches in His Word. If you have any questions or concerns at all about any religious matter please let us know. We would be most happy to provide more information and discuss these matters with you further. Please read and remember Luke 8:15. The Savior said: “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned” (Mark 16:16). Will you obey Him in all things and be saved (Hebrews 5:9)? You are too valuable to be lost! ♥

Note:

Please study the verses on the back page under “GOD’S UNCHANGING PLAN OF SALVATION.” Also see the “**Conversion accounts**” to know that they did exactly what the Lord had said. In some accounts you will find that some of the steps are left out but it is very obvious that they did those things. For example: not every account says the people repented or confessed Christ, but we know they did, because this is a process of conversion. In Paul’s conversion it does not say that Paul believed, but we know by the actions that he did.

If you would like a chart (letter size) on the conversions please let me know. I would be glad to send it to you, of course, at no cost to you. Our interest is in your eternal soul’s salvation.

If you would like to find the church of Christ nearest you we may be able to assist you. ♥