

When Is a Person Saved?

Purpose: To show that a person is saved when he obeys the gospel of Christ.

I. Modern day errors.

A. All you have to do is believe.

1. The Bible plainly tells us that we are not saved by faith only (James 2:24 – Justification is not by faith only).
2. I want to emphasize there are different degrees of faith and it is possible to believe and still be lost (two examples: (1) chief rulers – John 12:42,43; (2) the demons – James 2:19).
3. Now I want to give five passages that show what it means to properly believe in God (I Peter 2:6,7; Numbers 20:7-12; Daniel 6:23; Acts 16:34; Romans 16:26 – These passages make it plain; to correctly believe in God is to obey God)!

B. Pray for forgiveness and ask Jesus Christ to come into your heart.

1. The gospel nowhere teaches a person to pray to become a child of God.
2. According to Acts 2:38 if you are not a child of God you are to repent and be baptized for the remission of your sins. According to Acts 8:22 if you are a child of God who sins you are to repent and pray to be forgiven.

C. It doesn't matter what you believe as long as you are sincere because we are all headed to the same place anyway.

1. Sincerity and obedience to the truth save, not sincerity alone.
2. See Joshua 24:14; John 4:23,24; Matthew 15:9; 8:32; I Peter 1:22.

D. A person can be saved without ever being a member of the church.

1. The Bible plainly teaches that reconciliation only takes place in the church.
2. See Romans 5:10; Ephesians 2:16 – Shows us where this reconciliation takes place – “in one body”; Ephesians 1:22,23 – The body is the church; Acts 2:47 – When a person is saved the Lord adds him to His church.

II. The gospel plan of salvation.

- A. Hear (Romans 10:17).
- B. Believe (Mark 16:16).
- C. Repent (Acts 17:30).
- D. Confess Christ (Acts 8:37; Romans 10:9,10).
- E. Be baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16).

III. A person is saved when he obeys the gospel plan of salvation.

- A. Jesus is “. . . the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him” (Hebrews 5:9).
- B. Paul said we are freed from sin when we obey the gospel of Christ (Romans 6:17,18). See Romans 6:3, 4.
- C. Paul further warned about the danger of not obeying the gospel of Christ (II Thessalonians 1:7-9).

Conclusion: It should be obvious that a person is saved when he obeys the gospel plan of salvation. Have you obeyed this plan or the teaching of men?

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