

“What Must I Do To Be Saved?”

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Text: Acts 16:19-33 (v.31)

**Theme: To show the relationship between
the plan of salvation and the
resurrection of Christ.**

Introduction:

1. Discuss the usual manner of preaching this subject.
2. But we want to consider it from a different view, yet not different. The same question will be asked, the same answer will be given, yet we want to observe the foundation for the answer.
3. The question “What must I do to be saved?” is the singularly most important question that has ever entered into the channels of the human mind.
4. On the other hand, the resurrection of Christ has demonstrated itself to be the singularly most important event that has ever happened in the history of humanity.
5. And we would assert and prove this [morning/evening] that this event is intertwined with the question and the event, i.e. the resurrection of Christ, gives the necessary assurance of the truthfulness to the answer of the question, “What must I do to be saved?”

Discussion:

- I. But before we see how the resurrection of Christ ties in with the answer to the question, “What must I do to be saved?” we would be compelled to ask another question: “Why believe in the resurrection of Christ anyway?”
 - A. Because for 2000 years opponents have not been successful in their attempts to destroy it. Consider two important dates in modern church history.
 1. April 1829- Cincinnati, Ohio - Campbell - Owen debate - Campbell had many debates, 5 major debates.
 2. Sept. 20-23 - 1976 - Warren - Flew debate - Denton Texas.
 - B. Archeology, historical evidences etc. - Nazareth Decree - stone slab - *Christian Courier* Aug.1976.
 - C. Biblical testimony - Even opponents accept the historical accuracy of the Bible.
 1. Peter - Acts 2.
 - a. Peter denied him, Jews killed him.
 - b. But Peter later became a bold proclaimer of Christ. The difference was the resurrection of Christ.
 2. Paul.
 - a. He was a persecutor of Jesus.
 - b. He became persecuted for Jesus after he had seen that Christ had been raised.
- II. The resurrection, the foundation of the scheme of redemption.
 - A. Hearing -
 1. Faith is produced by hearing - Romans 10:17.
 2. Hearing involves preaching.
 3. Because Christ is who he is, was crucified and died, and because

of the great resurrection the plan of salvation is preached that men might believe and be saved - Luke 24:46-48.

B. Believe -

1. Faith is the power of victory over the world - I John 5:3,4.
2. It is that which will cause God to be pleased with us - Hebrews 11:6.
3. But our faith must be centered upon the resurrection of Christ- Romans 10:9.

C. Repentance - a change of mind about sin.

1. Comes by godly sorrow - results in reformation of life.
2. Acts 3 - the miracle shows the power of faith in Jesus Christ.
 - a. But they killed Christ- God raised him from the dead - vv.14,15.
 - b. Because of the resurrection and the power of faith in the resurrected Christ, they are told to repent, v.19.
 - c. The resurrection is tremendous motivation to repent.

D. Confession - with the mouth -

1. Often taken for granted - but very significant.
2. Must confess that Jesus is the son of God - Acts 8:37.
 - a. But this truth is proved by the resurrection.
 - b. Miracles, teachings- but the resurrection is the “icing on the cake” - Romans 1:1-4.
4. Little girl in Newton, Kansas (Summer 1976).

E. Be baptized -

1. Every case of conversion in the book of Acts records the fact of that person's baptism. No such thing as an unbaptized believer

(Christian) in the New Testament days.

2. Baptism is obedience to the gospel because it pictures the gospel facts - Romans 6:3,4.
 3. Baptism saves us, the Bible says, but not because it is meritorious on our part but rather because it connects us with the blood of the cross and his great resurrection from the dead - I Peter 3:21 - Notice the parenthetical explanation - "The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us..... by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- F. Live faithfully -
1. For one to give up obedience to the Lord is for him to give up salvation. - Revelation 2:10 - "Be thou...."
 2. It is because of the resurrection of Christ that we should live faithfully - I Corinthians 15.
 - a. Paul argues the fact of the resurrection.
 - b. The resurrection is our great victory over sin and death.
 - c. "Therefore, be ye steadfast...." v.58.
- G. The entire plan of salvation is guaranteed by the resurrection. To subtract from the plan at all is to thwart the resurrection and to cast doubt on the deity of Christ, even though it may not be intentional.

III. I Corinthians 1:18.

- A. Preaching of the cross -
1. God showed his love to us in allowing his son to go through this.
 - a. Christ showed his great love in willingness to die on the cross.
 - b. Without the shedding of blood of God's son on the

cross, we would not have
remission of sins,
Hebrews 9:22.

2. But that is not the point-
- B. Others have died on crosses.
 1. Thousands.
 2. For what they believed.
 3. For causes they loved.
 4. For people they loved.
- C. So, why is the preaching of the cross so important then?
 1. Because all the others could do was die.
 2. But Jesus came out from his tomb, triumphant over Satan and death.
 3. The resurrection gives the cross it's great significance.

Conclusion:

1. Really the question "What must I do to be saved?" is properly answered with the question, "Do you believe in the resurrection?"
2. If so, then the plan of salvation unfolds itself.
3. [connect points of the plan of salvation with the resurrection]

Invitation:

I Peter 1:3,4

5.

