

Why I Believe – Lesson 7
Why I Believe God has one plan for Man’s Salvation
Matthew 7:21-23
By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to show what the Bible says about God’s plan for man’s salvation.

- Intro: 1. Mankind has many ideas concerning salvation.
2. However, we will show today that God’s plan is the only one found in the Bible.

I. What some teach concerning salvation.

A. Baptist’s Plan

1. From the “Southern Baptist Convention” website, “How to become a Christian” section.
2. Their steps...
 1. **I acknowledge I am a sinner in need of a Savior - this is to repent or turn away from sin**
 2. **I believe in my heart that God raised Jesus from the dead - this is to trust that Jesus paid the full penalty for my sins**
 3. **I confess Jesus as my Lord and my God - this is to surrender control of my life to Jesus**
 4. **I receive Jesus as my Savior forever - this is to accept that God has done for me and in me what He promised**
3. Following this they suggest a common sinners prayer
 - a. It is in this prayer the person invites Christ into their heart.

B. Methodist’s Plan

1. Comprised from Methodist websites
 - a. **1. See your need for salvation.**
 - 2. Believe that Jesus is Savior.**
 - 3. Ask Jesus to forgive you of all your sin.**
 - 4. Through prayer, ask Jesus to be your personal savior.**
 - a. In the past this may have taken place at “The Mourners Bench”.
2. Following this they suggest a common sinners prayer
 - a. It is in this prayer the person invites Christ into their heart.

C. Assembly of God’s Plan (Similar to many “Non-denominational” church teachings)

1. From the “How to become a Christian” document from the “ag.org” website in the “core beliefs” section.
 - a. Call on God through prayer for salvation.
2. They state the following requirements for salvation: 1) Realize only Christ can save
2) All you need to do is call on the name of the Lord 3) Realize anyone can be saved, you do not have to be perfect
3. Notice the following statement: ***“You don’t need a great amount of faith-just enough to call on Him in prayer and to believe that when you ask Him for salvation He gives it to you as He says He will.”***
4. From the “James River Assembly of God” website (springfield, mo)
 - a. Results of Salvation (notice point 1)

- b. 1) **The inward evidence of salvation is the direct witness of the Spirit (Romans 8:16).** 2) The outward evidence to all men is a life of righteousness and true holiness (Ephesians 4:24; Titus 2:12).
- c. They go on to teach the following on Holy Spirit Baptism: *All believers are entitled to and should ardently expect and earnestly seek the promise of the Father, the baptism in the Holy Spirit and fire, according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ.*
- d. Their “physical evidence” of Holy Spirit baptism: *The baptism of believers in the Holy Spirit is witnessed by the initial physical sign of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit of God gives them utterance (Acts 2:4). The speaking in tongues in this instance is the same in essence as the gift of tongues (1 Corinthians 12:4-10,28), but different in purpose and use.”*

D. Pentecostal’s Plan

- 1. From the “First Pentecostal Church of Buford” – faith alone will not save. They teach repentance and baptism are required. However that is not all they teach concerning salvation.
- 2. From the website:
 - a. **Spiritual Baptism (or the infilling of the Holy Ghost/Holy Spirit) is the seal of God in our lives and the guarantee of our inheritance of eternal life. It is the Spirit of Christ working in us, anointing us with the power to be witnesses for Him. All born again believers must be baptized with the Holy Spirit.**

II. In the New Testament we find...

- 1. Acts 2:37-38
- 2. Acts 8:9-13
- 3. Acts 8:30-38
- 4. Acts 9:1-9; 17-18
- 5. Acts 10:34-35,44-48
- 6. Acts 16:14-15
- 7. Acts 16:30-33

B. The 6 Steps

- 1. Hear – **Romans 10:13-17**
 - a. Hear Christ not the commandments of Men (**Mt 15:9**)
- 2. Believe – **John 8:24**, believe Christ is the Son of God
- 3. Repent – **2 Peter 3:9, Lk 24:46-47**
- 4. Confess – **Matthew 10:32-33, Rom 10:9-10**
- 5. Be Baptized – **Acts 2:37-38** (Question is asked and answered)
 - Baptism for the remission of sins and for placement into the Body of Christ (**Gal 3:26-27**)
- 6. Live Faithfully – **John 14:15, Rev 2:10**

III. Lessons for us today.

- A. Man made plans to not save.
 - 1. **A simple prayer that brings salvation is not found in the Bible.**
 - a. **“A text taken out of context is a pretext to religious error”.**
- B. God’s plan saves because it starts and ends with Him.

- 1. God's plan saves because it starts and ends with Him.**
- 2. He sets the terms and no one else.**
- 3. His terms are obedience to His commands (Heb 5:9)**

Application & Conclusion:

1. Salvation only comes by obeying God's commands.
2. Mankind will continue to make their own plans for man's salvation but God's Word doesn't change.
3. Full Invitation

Non-Christians must:

Hear – James 1:22, Romans 10:15,17

Believe – Jn 12:44, Jn 8:24, Mt 16:16

Repent – Luke 13:2-3

Confess – John 12:42, Romans 10:9

Be Baptized – 1 Pt 3:21, Acts 22:16, Col 2:11, Mk 16:16, Rom 6:3-4

Live faithfully – John 14:15, Rev 2:10

Christians must:

Repent: Acts 17:20, Acts 8:37, Lk 13:3

Pray: James 5:16, 1 Jn 1:9