

**Why I am a member of the church of Christ #6
because it teaches what a person must do to be saved.**

Acts 2:36-41

By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to show what the Bible says about what a person must do to be saved.

Intro:

A. This is the most important question that a person could possibly ask. Why? It deals with the souls of men and it deals with life and death, heaven and hell etc.

B. A consideration of some important words:

1. "**WHAT**" This word suggests that there is something required of man in being saved. The Bible in numerous passages support the conclusion that salvation is conditional.

1 Peter 1:22

2. "**MUST**" This word suggest that it is mandatory or imperative. It is not a question of what should or may I do; but rather what must I do! It does not belong in the ways of opinion, but is an absolute necessity. **John 3:3-7**

3. "**I**" This word indicates that it is personal. It is not something that God, Christ or the Holy Spirit must do, nor is it something that someone else must do for me, it is rather something that I must do. This word makes it an individual responsibility in the blessing of redemption.

4. "**DO**" This word suggest activity. Individuals are not completely insignificant in human redemption. **James 1:21**

5. "**TO BE SAVED**" This phrase denotes the end result once the stipulated conditions are meet. The word does not suggest that one saves himself. This cannot be done. **Titus 3:5**
But rather one is saved by God through Christ. **1 John 4:14**

When the individual complies with the conditions of salvation set forth by the Holy Spirit in the pages of divine revelation.

6. Let us lay aside what men have said and focus our attention on what the Bible says about this most important question.

I. The question asked and answered.

A. The question "WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?" Was asked three times in the New Testament.

1. The Jews on the day of Pentecost.

a. Peter continued his speech by focusing on the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. He showed how they had by wicked (lawless) hands had killed the Son of God, and that God had raised him from the dead and glorified him by sitting him on the throne of David at his (God's) own right hand, in fulfillment of the prophecy of Joel. (*Acts 2:22-36 – not in in slide show*)

b. When some of the people present that heard this "they were pricked in their hearts, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and Brethren, what shall we do?"

d. The answer comes loud and clear

Acts 2:37-38

2. The second time we find the question is in Acts 9

a. In Acts 9 the question is asked by a man known as Saul later known as Paul. This man as Saul is first seen as a persecutor of the church. (Acts 26:10-11- Saul tells of his persecuting the church)

b. His persecution against the church was so intense that he desired and received letters from the High Priests to go into the synagogues in Damascus to bring back to Jerusalem, in chains, those who were Christians. As he made his journey to Damascus he encountered the unexpected. He encountered the resurrected and glorified Christ. The miraculous event did not save Saul, but he was told to go into the city and it would be told him what he must do.

Acts 9:6

c. Saul went into the city and spent three days fasting and praying.

Acts 9:9-11

And then by the mouth of Ananias came the answer to his question. It is recorded in, **Acts 22:16**

3. The third time we find this question asked is in the jail in Philippi.

(Acts 16:19-40 not in slide show)

a. Paul and Silas were imprisoned for healing a woman [possessed with a spirit of divination (soothsaying)]. They were cast into the inner prison and a guard placed there to watch them. About midnight there was an earthquake.

b. Acts 16:30

c. The account doesn't end here, for we have the response of Paul and Silas.

Acts 16:31

They spake unto him the word of the Lord, **Acts 16:32-33** and he the same hour of the night took them and washed their stripes (indicating repentance) and was baptized. Why was he baptized? For the same reason Saul was, (*Acts 22:16*) and for the same reason people on Pentecost were. (*Acts 2:38*)

d. The answer to the question today "WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED"? Today is the same as it was in the previous mentioned accounts.

II. Examples of Conversions

(There are several accounts of conversion in the book of Acts. In consideration of the question "what must I do to be saved"? You could study these accounts of conversion).

A. They were told to "REPENT and be BAPTIZED every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the REMISSION OF SIN". - Acts 2:37-41

1. The people of Samaria believed and was baptized.

Acts 8:5-13

2. The eunuch believed, confessed and was baptized.

Acts 8:35-39

3. Saul was baptized.

Acts 9:17-18 - It was to wash away sin. - **Acts 22:16**

4. Cornelius believed and was baptized.

Acts 10:34-48.

5. The jailor believed and was baptized. **Acts 16:30-34**
6. Lydia attended unto the things spoken by Paul and was baptized. **Acts 16:13-15**

B. When all conversion accounts are considered, we have revealed the complete answer to the question.

1. One must hear the gospel.

Acts 16:14, Rom 10:17

2. One must believe the gospel.

Heb 5:8-9, John 8:21-24

3. One must repent of sin.

Acts 2:38, Luke 13:3-5

4. One must confess Christ.

Acts 8:37, Rom 10:9-10

5. One must be immersed (baptized).

Mark 16:16, Acts 22:16

Concl:

1. The answer to the question "what must I do to be saved"? Is extremely important. Thus the answer must be found in the word of God, not in the creeds and manuals of men.

2. It is not enough to do something, we must do what the word of God commands. The answer is clear. It is simply a matter of having the faith and courage to obey.

God must be obeyed - **Heb 5:8-9**

3. Invitation