

Salvation By Faith

Introduction

- I. Many New Testament passages speak of *salvation by faith*, and I believe every one them exactly as they are written (John 3:16).
 - A. The question is: "How are men saved by faith?"
 - B. John 3:16 is the starting point, not the answer to the question of salvation.
- II. Believers have the right to become the children of God (John 1:11–12).
 - A. The word "right" means "authority, right, liberty, ability" (Barclay M. Newman, Jr., *A Concise Greek-English Dictionary of the New Testament*).
 - B. The same word is used in other passages (John 19:10; Acts 5:4; Luke 7:8).
 - C. Sometimes believers reject this right (John 12:42–43; Acts 26:27–28).
 - D. Sometimes believers exercise their right (Acts 6:7; Rom. 16:25–27).
- III. Since men are saved by faith, we need to find out when it transpires.

Discussion

I. The Great Commission In Mark 16:16

- A. There are five views of this verse:
 - 1. *Catholic*: "He who believes not and is baptized shall be saved."
 - 2. *Atheist*: "He who believes and is baptized shall not be saved."
 - 3. *Universalist*: "He who believes not and is not baptized shall be saved."
 - 4. *Baptist*: "He who believes and is not baptized shall be saved."
 - 5. *Bible*: "He who believes and is baptized will be saved."
- B. The conditions for salvation are named: faith and baptism.
- C. The condition for damnation is also named: disbelief (cf. John 3:18).
- D. Baptism is the act which faith obeys!

II. The First Gospel Sermon After The Cross (Acts 2:14–41)

- A. When did these people receive the "remission of sins"?
 - 1. When Peter began preaching (Acts 2:14f)?
 - 2. When they were "pricked in their hearts" (Acts 2:37)?
 - 3. When they cried out "What shall we do" (Acts 2:37)?
 - 4. When Peter told them to "repent and be baptized" (Acts 2:38)?
 - 5. When they obeyed the commands (Acts 2:40–41)?
- B. There is an inseparable connection between baptism in water and the remission of our sins.
 - 1. This passage makes the remission of sins depend on baptism just as much, and in the same sense, as it depends on repentance.
 - 2. The preposition "for" cannot express two different relationships to the two words.
 - 3. Copulative conjunction "and" couples two verbs with the phrase "for the remission of sins."
 - 4. If repentance is essential to salvation, then so is baptism.

III. The Conversion Of The Ethiopian Nobleman (Acts 8:26–40)

- A. The question, “What hinders me from being baptized?” (Acts 8:36).
- B. Philip was not a Baptist preacher, for he was talking to an alien sinner about water baptism before he knew if the man was a believer.
- C. “If you believe with all your heart, you may” (Acts 8:37).
- D. Here is a believer about to exercise his right to become a child of God!

IV. Noah’s Salvation And Ours (I Peter 3:18–22)

- A. Noah was saved by *grace* (Gen. 6:8); so are we (Eph. 2:8).
- B. Noah was saved by *faith* (Heb. 11:7); so are we (Acts 16:31).
- C. Noah was saved by *obedience* (Gen. 6:22); so are we (Heb. 5:8–9).
- D. Noah was saved by *water* (1 Pet. 3:20); so are we (1 Pet. 3:21).

V. Baptism Is Always Before Salvation

- A. “He who *believes* and is *baptized* will be saved.” (Mark 16:16).
- B. “...*be baptized* ... for the *remission of sins*.” (Acts 2:38).
- C. “...*be baptized*, and *wash away your sins*” (Acts 22:16).
- D. “...*buried with Him through baptism* ... walk in *newness of life*.” (Rom. 6:4).
- E. “There is also an *antitype* which now *saves us*, namely baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ...” (1 Peter 3:21).

VI. Salvation Is Attributed To Many Things:

- A. Belief (Acts 16:31).
- B. Confession (1 John 4:2).
- C. God (2 Tim. 1:8–9).
- D. Grace (Eph. 2:8).
- E. Gospel (Rom. 1:1).
- F. Hope (Rom. 8:24).
- G. Repentance (Acts 11:18).
- H. The Holy Spirit (Titus 3:).
- I. Blood (Rom. 5:9).
- J. Works (Jam. 2:24).
- K. Jesus (Matt. 1:21).
- L. Baptism (1 Pet. 3:21).
- M. Can one of these exclude the rest?

Conclusion

- I. “For you are all the sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ” (Gal. 3:26–27).
 - A. The word “for” (Gr. *gar*) “adduces the cause or gives the reason of a preceding statement or opinion.” (*Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon*, p. 109).
 - B. The word “for” is also translated as “because” or “since.”
- II. We are the children of God *because* we were baptized into Christ!