

What Jesus Himself Teaches About Salvation

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Using only quotations from Jesus, this lesson outlines what the Lord Himself taught about salvation.

Slide -II John 1:9 “Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son.”

The most important discussion we can ever have with someone is the one dealing with the issue of salvation
How are you saved? What must you do to be saved?

It is a conversation that you can have with anyone because it relates to everyone.

Everyone has a soul

Everyone has an opportunity to be saved, salvation is offered to everyone in the world

So, having that discussion with anyone is the most important discussion you can have.

In our society there are many different religious groups that are promoting their various beliefs and even within Christianity not all say the same thing with regards to salvation.

We cannot speak for other religions but as far as Christianity goes,
we have a clear and sure guide in our understanding of this subject –

That clear and sure guide is Jesus Christ Himself!

It begins with Him and it ends with Him

Unfortunately, not everyone says the same thing about salvation so in order to clarify this issue in our own minds so that we can speak with one voice and one teaching,

Let us consider what Jesus Himself teaches about salvation using only His words spoken on the subject.

A lot of time this discussion may become a debate with someone, people go to Romans, and then they go to 1 Corinthians and they are jumping from one book to another

Which is fine it is all inspired, its all the Bible but I thought why not just narrow down on what Jesus himself said, just that.

To see what exactly the Lord Himself, **who is the source of salvation**, what does the Lord says about this.

I believe that in this way we can lay aside what's traditional, what's popular, or what's uncomfortable and focus only on what Jesus actually said about how someone is saved.

Hopefully there will be no argument or misunderstanding after that.

And after all is said and done you can use this when talking to someone about salvation as well.

Jesus said that ... Slide -

1. One must come to Him for salvation

John 10:9 “I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.”

That sounds clear and sure.

So, first we see here is Jesus Himself speaking

The first thing that one must do is come to Christ for his salvation, no other person or thing can accomplish it.

In Acts 4:12 - Peter proclaims the exclusivity of the Christian Religion, there is no room for anyone else but Jesus.

Slide - “Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

This is so because no one else in history has done for man in regard to salvation what Christ has done.

Many have lived good lives, changed nations, started religions, written wise words

but no one has dealt with the sin of the world through an atoning and purifying death,

and no one has ever been resurrected from the dead as verification that what he taught, did, and promised was valid.

No one else has promised his followers a conscious, joyful, certain, eternal life and performed miracles to confirm the promises.

What better proof can you have than Jesus’s resurrection

If you can resurrect anyone from the dead that means you can do anything.

Why else would you believe anyone if they couldn’t do it to themselves.

That why I ask those people with the so-called gift of healing, why can’t you heal yourself?

Slide - Jesus said in Matthew 10:32 “Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven.”

Jesus said that we must confess His name and the point He is making is that in order to be saved we must acknowledge that only He can save us.

...Jesus also said that ... **Slide** -

2. Faith is necessary for salvation

In the parable about the sower of the seed, Jesus said;

Luke 8: 11-12 “Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.”

Once we have recognized that salvation is in Christ, it is found only in Him

then we need to believe that what He says is true.

Not just the intellectual assent that His sayings and promises and work are valid and truthful,

but a faith that uses His word as a basis for one's conduct and guarantee for personal salvation from death and condemnation.

Its not that I believe Jesus was a good man, a profit or that He did miracles

I believe is that He accomplished my salvation.

That is the substance of what I believe.

I can't tell you how important that is.

A lot of people in the world who believe Jesus was a good man, a profit, even Muslims believe that

But the substance of faith they have for Jesus will not save them.

Its not just who we believe but what we believe about Him.

Jesus says you need to believe that I am the one who saves you. That's very important

Jesus pays us the ultimate respect as human beings by allowing us to express our free will about salvation, by making faith one of the conditions (You need free will to believe).

God the Father planned our salvation, God the Holy Spirit prepared the way for our salvation.

God the Son accomplished it on the cross but Divinity leaves room for our faith in order to complete it.

It isn't much, to say "yes" to the Eternal God, but without that "yes" the plan,

the preparation and the redemptive work of Christ is all for naught –

In order to be saved, Jesus says that we first must believe!!

We need to say yes to God, we need to say yes to Jesus.

... Jesus also said that ... **Slide** -

3. Repentance is necessary for salvation

Luke 9: 5-10 "When Jesus came to the place, He looked up and said to him, "Zaccheus, hurry and come down, for today I must stay at your house." And he hurried and came down and received Him gladly. When they saw it, they all began to grumble, saying, "He has gone to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." Slide - Zaccheus stopped and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, half of my possessions I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will give back four times as much." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

The story doesn't mention the word repentance but describes the attitude of sincere repentance.

Repentance is not just sorrow for past sins but a change of attitude about sin in general.

In repentance we go from being lovers of self, sin and the things of the world to becoming lovers of God, lovers of righteousness and lovers of heaven and the promises of God.

Jesus sums up the attitude in

Slide -Mark 8:34-35 “When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, “Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s will save it.”

Repentance isn't negotiating or bargaining with God about how much sin you can keep in your life and still be saved –

Repentance it is a total transformation of the direction, attitude and function of our wills.

Although painful, repentance is the joyful experience of seeing our old life slip away as we desire more and more to know and do and be only what Christ wants us to know and do and become.

A person can talk about Jesus and his faith but unless his action in big and little things demonstrates a real change what is claimed as faith is nothing more than false piety.

Slide -In Luke 13:3 Jesus said, "I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish."

... Jesus also said that ... **Slide** -

4. You must be baptized for salvation

Mark 16:16 – “He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.”

The first step in denying self is to bury self in the waters of baptism.

Baptism is necessary in order to be saved for many reasons:

At baptism our sins are forgiven. –

Slide -Acts 2:38 – “Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission (forgiveness) of sins”

At baptism we receive the Holy Spirit. –

Slide -Acts 2:38 – “and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

At baptism we are added to the church. –

Slide -Acts 2:47 – “praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.”

At baptism we put on Christ. –

Slide -Galatians 3:26 – “For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.”

At baptism we are saved. –

Slide -I Peter 3:21 – “There is also an antitype which now saves us—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”

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Simple logic dictates that in order to be saved;

1. One must be forgiven,

2. Have the Holy Spirit,
3. Be a member of the church,
4. Put on Christ - this is what being saved means;
5. if these things occur at baptism, then baptism is necessary for salvation

because without baptism these things do not occur and without these things we cannot be saved.

But the foremost reason why baptism is necessary for salvation is because **Slide** -

Jesus commands it and He command it in connection with personal salvation.

Jesus doesn't say it's an outward sign, People say that is an outward sign of something that has taken place in the past, I say Ok where does it say that in the New Testament?

And you know what, no ever shows it to me because it's not there.

People say that it's just a ceremony, you can do it or not.

Really, then why does Jesus command it.

It simple grammar, Mark 16:16 that's an imperative sentence

What is an imperative sentence?

You must do this.

Slide -Jesus doesn't say it's an outward sign, it's just a ceremony or a simple unimportant ritual

He says it's vital for salvation.

Some people say that not for us, that a Church of Christ doctrine, really?

Seems to me they were teaching it back in the first century.

Yes, we are saved by faith, but that faith must be expressed by our will

and Jesus says that this expression of our will / our faith is accomplished by repentance and baptism.

Jesus is the one who draws this line, not the church or Church of Christ theologians.

... Jesus also said that in order to be saved ... **Slide** -

5. Endurance is necessary

Matthew 10:22 "You will be hated by all because of My name, but it is the one who has endured to the end who will be saved."

In this passage (and Matthew 24:33; Mark 13:3-23) Jesus is teaching His disciples about two catastrophic events:

The destruction of Jerusalem, which would happen in their lifetime.

His second coming which could happen at any time.

The message for both events was similar however, only those who were faithful to the end would be saved.

In these passages He tried to prepare them by telling them some of the things they would have to endure.

His disciples would suffer:

Family division

Persecution, violence, suffering

You may have to put up with False teachers, hypocrites in the church

Social and environmental unrest

Unfaithfulness and lack of love by many in the church.

You will have to suffer many or all these things, He says.

Then Jesus says, despite all these things you suffer, only the ones who endure to the end will be saved.

It's amazing to me to see people who abandoned the church because somebody forgot to put their name in the bulletin about their birthday

Or someone offended them, a brother or sister said something to them that was unkind or did something that was not nice, that might have been offensive or hurtful and they say I'm done, I'm out of here.

Really, this is your excuse, this is what your going to bring to the Lord on judgement day.

Well you know my birthday is important to me, really?

You haven't read or heard this passage before when Jesus says you might be killed, offended, tortured, they may burn your house down and they can do all these this and Jesus says through all this if you remain faithful to the end you will be saved.

Tell me again your reason for abandoning the church? For having abandon the faith.

But His point to them and to us is that these things are not to be used as valid excuses for falling away (as many do,

thinking God will ignore their unfaithfulness because they think they have a good excuse –

Brother and sister these things have been and always will be obstacles we have to overcome in order to reach the end.

Slide -In the Christian race only those who finish faithfully are saved.

You don't have to running fast,

you don't have to be a Christian super star,

you don't have to do everything and never make any mistakes

but you do have to finish.

Bloodied, broken, scared, hurt, tired, fed up and offended, that's OK but we need to finish.

I include myself in this group.

Slide -So, Why this sermon?

I believe most of us have heard the things that I have said here today probably many times.

but I wanted to make sure of four things:

1. Certainty

That everyone is absolutely convinced about what Jesus Himself says concerning salvation – for their own souls and for the souls of others they will speak to.

To be absolute sure that the things I have said, not because Michael Shingledecker has spoken them

But because Michael Shingledecker has pointed you to the New Testament where Jesus has said these things

2. Slide - Knowledge

To make sure that this congregation and all others who visit with us know what our basic teaching is on this basic question so there be no misunderstanding of our doctrine.

What do we teach here at the Floral City Church of Christ, this is what we teach here?

3. Slide - Challenge

As a way of challenging those here today to examine themselves and see if they have been saved and if not, do something about it.

Believe in Christ and confess His name if you haven't. Repent of your sins if you haven't.

Be baptized (immersed in water) if you haven't.

Be faithful or return to being faithful if you haven't.

4. Slide - Encouragement

Finally, I add one last reason for this lesson and that is to encourage anyone here to ask for prayer if they need the help of the church or identify with this congregation if they wish to extend the hand of fellowship to us.

If you have any of these needs, please let us know.

Please either come forward now or we can talk later, just let me know.

Let us all stand while we sing a song of encouragement.

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