

# **“What Must I Do to Be Saved?”**

## **An Examination of Conversions in the Book of Acts**

(Adapted from studies by Dave Brown and Kent Heaton)

### Introduction:

- A. It is important that you understand that I am addressing this matter today for the safety of your souls.
  - 1. Sometimes the wellbeing of our eternal souls comes into conflict with our personal comfort, and we are forced to choose which is the most important. Your salvation, not personal comfort, is my priority today.
- B. Study these scriptures carefully, noting that while some examples give only a general summary of what occurred, others provide specific details.
  - 1. Please do not be satisfied with what you think you know right now; instead, study this matter honestly and diligently.
- C. Christians are often accused of cherry picking what they want out of the Bible.
  - 1. Do not be guilty of this sin, and it is a sin. We are to base our faith on all the Bible teaches on any given matter.
  - 2. This sermon contains all of the passages in the book of Acts that address salvation. We cannot expect that all of the details will be given every time an account is given of someone’s conversion to Christ.
  - 3. Quite often the New Testament uses a figure of speech called a synecdoche in which a term for a part of something refers to the whole
  - 4. Or a metonymy - “The substitution of the name of an attribute or adjunct for that of the thing meant, for example suit for business executive, the pen for the written word, or the sword for military force.”

### **I. SALVATION IN THE BOOK OF ACTS**

- A. The Jews on the Day of Pentecost - Acts 2:14-41
  - 1. “...God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ” (v. 36).
  - 2. “When they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?” (v. 37).
  - 3. “Repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins” (v. 38).
  - 4. “Then those who gladly received his word were baptized” (v. 41).
- B. Other Jews in Jerusalem - Acts 3:1 - 4:4
  - 1. “Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out...” (3:19).
  - 2. “...God raised up ... Jesus, sent Him to bless you, in turning you away from your iniquities” (3:26).
  - 3. “... and the number of the men who believed came to be about five thousand” (4:4).
- C. Still more Jews in Jerusalem - Acts 5:14
  - 1. “And believers were increasingly added to the Lord...” (v. 14).
  - 2. This happened in spite of the recent punishment of Ananias and Sapphira (v. 1).

- D. Priests and others were converted - Acts 6:1-7
  - a. "Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying..." (v. 1).
  - b. "...the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem..." (v. 7).
- E. The people of Samaria, including Simon the Sorcerer - Acts 8:5-13
  - 1. "But when they believed Philip as he preached..., both men and women were baptized." (vv. 12-13)
  - 2. "Simon also believed; and when he was baptized he continued with Philip..." (vv. 12-13).
- F. The Ethiopian eunuch - Acts 8:26-40
  - 1. Philip "preached Jesus to him" (v. 35).
  - 2. "...the eunuch said, 'See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?'"
  - 3. Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may."
  - 4. The eunuch answered, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God" (v. 36-37).
  - 5. "Both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him" (v. 38).
  - 6. The eunuch "went on his way rejoicing" (v. 39).
- G. Saul of Tarsus - Acts 9, 22, 26
  - 1. Saul believed in Jesus after the Lord spoke to him on the road to Damascus.
  - 2. He manifested repentance by asking, "Lord, what do You want me to do?" (9:6).
  - 3. Ananias said to Saul: "Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord" (22:16).
  - 4. "And he arose and was baptized" (Acts 9:18).
- H. The people of Lydda and Sharon - Acts 9:32-35
  - 1. "So all who dwelt at Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord" (v. 35).
- I. The people of Joppa - Acts 9:36-43
  - 1. "And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed on the Lord" (Acts 9:42).
- J. Cornelius and his household - Acts 10:1 - 11:18
  - 1. "Send... for Peter..., who will tell you words by which you and all your household will be saved"
  - 2. "Whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins" (10:43).
  - 3. "Then God has also granted the Gentiles repentance to life" (11:18).
  - 4. "Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit...?"
  - 5. "He commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord" (10:48).
- K. Gentiles in Antioch of Syria - Acts 11:19-24
  - 1. "A great number believed and turned to the Lord" (v. 21).
  - 2. "A great many people were added to the Lord" (v. 24).
- L. Sergius Paulus - Acts 13:6-12

1. "This man called for Barnabas and Saul and sought to hear the word of God" (v. 7).
  2. "...the proconsul believed... being astonished at the teaching of the Lord" (v. 12).
- M. The Gentiles in Antioch of Pisidia - Acts 13:42-52
1. "Now when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord."
  2. "And as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed" (v. 48).
- N. Jews and Gentiles in Iconium - Acts 14:1
1. "...and so spoke that a great multitude of the Jews and of the Greeks believed" (v. 1).
- O. People in Derbe - Acts 14:20-21
1. "And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples..."
- P. Lydia and her household - Acts 16:11-15
1. "The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul" (v. 14).
  2. "... when she and her household were baptized...she begged us, saying... come to my house and stay" (v. 15).
- Q. The Philippian jailer and his household - Acts 16:25-34
1. He asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" (v. 30).
  2. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household" (v. 31).
  3. "Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house" (v. 32).
  4. "And immediately he and all his family were baptized" (v. 33).
  5. "...he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household" (v. 34).
- R. The Jews and Gentiles in Thessalonica - Acts 17:1-4; 1Thes. 1:5-10, 2:13
1. "Paul...reasoned with them from the Scriptures" (v. 2).
  2. "And some of them (Jews) were persuaded; and a great multitude of the devout Greeks..."
  3. "...and not a few of the leading women, joined Paul and Silas" (v. 4).
  4. "They turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God..." (1Thes. 1:9-10).
  5. "...you welcomed it, not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God..." (1Thes. 2:13).
- S. The Jews and Gentiles in Berea (Acts 17:10-12)
1. "...they... searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so (v. 11).
  2. "Therefore many of them believed, and also not a few of the Greeks..." (v. 12).
- T. A few of the Gentiles in Athens - Acts 17:22-34
1. "These times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men... to repent" (v. 30).
  2. "Some men joined him and believed ... among them, a woman named Damaris, and others with them" (v. 34).
- U. Crispus and other Corinthians - Acts 18:1-8

1. "Then Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his household..."
  2. "...many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed and were baptized" (v. 8)
- V. The twelve men in Ephesus - Acts 19:1-7
1. These men had only been baptized into John's baptism.
  2. "When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus" (v. 6).
- W. Some of the Jews at Rome - Acts 28:23-24
1. "...many came to him at his lodging, to whom he explained and solemnly testified of the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus from both the Law of Moses and the Prophets" (v. 23).
  2. And some were persuaded by the things which were spoken" (v. 24).

## II. SALVATION IN THE WORD OF GOD

- A. In all of the examples of conversions in the book of Acts where any specifics are given, what one matter do they have in common?
1. Baptism
- B. What is the scriptural pattern?
1. Preaching and hearing
  2. Believing and faith
  3. Repenting and turning
  4. Confessing the name of Jesus
  5. Being baptized for the remission of sins
  6. Resulting in salvation
- C. What did Jesus command for salvation?
1. Hear the Gospel - Mark 4:9
  2. Believe the Son of God - John 8:24
  3. Repent of sins - Luke 13:3
  4. Confess His name - Matt. 10:32-33
  5. Be baptized - Matt. 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16
- D. What did the apostles command for salvation?
1. Hear the Gospel - Rom. 10:17
  2. Believe the Son of God - Heb. 11:6
  3. Repent of sins - Acts 3:19, 17:30
  4. Confess His name - Rom. 10:9-10
  5. Be baptized - Acts 2:38, 22:16
- E. And what will we teach regarding salvation in the Lord?
1. What Jesus Christ and His inspired apostles taught? Or something developed by well meaning, but erring and misguided men?