

# BIBLE TRUTHS ABOUT SALVATION

## LESSON TWO

The first lesson about salvation emphasized that --

\* every person can know that he or she has eternal life even before death (Philippians 1:21-23);

\* each of us is guilty of sin and in no way deserving of Heaven.

### WE CANNOT GAIN SALVATION THROUGH HUMAN MERIT.

Many people feel that salvation is gained through hard work. This is a natural way of thinking, since most of what we now possess comes from our own efforts. Working hard and living a good life are commendable choices. The question to consider is: will personal efforts gain us salvation?

1. Some say we can earn salvation by doing good works. What do Ephesians 2:8 and 9 say?

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2. Some say we can merit salvation by keeping the Ten Commandments. What does Romans 3:20 say?

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3. What is the purpose of the law according to Romans 3:20?

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4. Some say if we live a good life, Heaven will be ours. How many people are good according to Jesus in Matthew 19:17?

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The Bible is saying that our lives are characterized by sin. Our self-effort never takes away our sins. In fact, selfish motives even influence our best works (Ephesians 2:3).

If it were possible to be good enough to gain Heaven, what would be the

purpose of Christ's death on the cross? Would it have been necessary?

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### WE GAIN SALVATION BY PLACING OUR FAITH IN THE FINISHED WORK OF CHRIST.

1. What burden did Jesus bear on the cross (I Peter 2:24)?

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2. For what did Christ die (I Corinthians 15:3)?

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3. Read Hebrews 10:12 (this verse is speaking about Jesus Christ) How many times was Christ sacrificed?

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How long will that sacrifice be effective?

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4. The apostles clearly taught about Christ's death (Acts 2:23). What else did they teach according to Acts 2:24?

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The Bible says in Acts 2:36. "God hath made the same Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." The Father clearly accepted the sacrifice offered by the Son as shown by the Resurrection and the Ascension. The good news (gospel) could now be preached to the world (Luke 24:47,48).

## OUR LORD'S ACTIONS MAKE SALVATION POSSIBLE.

Next, we need to consider how we receive this salvation.

5. Paul was asked in Acts 16:30, "What must I do to be saved?" (Saved means to receive salvation or eternal life.) What was Paul's response (Acts 16:31)?

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The word "believe" means to "trust or rely on".

6. According to Jesus, what is necessary in order to have eternal life?

John 3:16

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John 5:24

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John 6:47

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John 11:25

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Again, "believe" means to trust. Many people trust in various things to obtain eternal life: good works, keeping the law, going to church, loving their neighbor, believing God exists, or any combination of these actions. For one to truly believe (trust) in Christ, that person must change his mind about trusting in anything he could do and instead place his trust only in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

7. Read Rom. 10:9-14. According to verse 14 what logically comes first—calling on Him or believing on Him?

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You cannot call upon the Lord until you believe (trust Him to save you). Consider the man's call in Luke 23:42.

8. Do you think that the man in Luke 23:42 was placing his trust in Christ alone or in what he had accomplished during his life?

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9. What was Christ's promise to him (Luke 23:43)?

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10. Do you think this man is in Heaven today?

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11. Do you believe that Jesus Christ will save you by your faith in Him alone?

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## WHY NOT PUT YOUR TRUST IN JESUS CHRIST NOW?

The Bible makes salvation a very simple matter. We are lost in our sins, but Christ came and died for our sins. He arose from the dead and now offers eternal salvation to anyone who will simply place his or her trust in Him alone. Therefore, one can respond and place his or her trust in Christ and receive eternal life. There is no greater joy than to know that you have eternal life.

Do you know for certain that you have eternal life? If not, you can know for sure by trusting Christ as your Savior. Believe that Jesus Christ died for your sins and rose again from the dead. He will save you from the penalty of your sins (eternal death), the power of sin during your days on Earth, and someday the presence of sin in Heaven. .