

"How can I be saved?"

Acts 16

Introduction: Today I want to preach a very simple message on salvation because I want you to know how you can be saved. In this message I want to raise several questions and then answer them.

1. Why do you need to be saved?

1. We are all sinners.

The reason everyone needs to be saved is because we are all sinners and God requires that every sin we have ever committed must be paid for.

Romans 3:23

¹⁰ As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

¹¹ There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.

¹² They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

²³ For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

2. God knows every sin we have committed.

This thought goes even further. God knows and has record of every sin that you have committed.

Romans 2:16

¹⁶ In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.

Hebrews 10:16-17

¹⁶ This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them;

¹⁷ And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.

Verse 17 speaks of people who are saved so the flipside of this is that God has a record of every sin that you have committed. You can hide nothing from Him.

Hebrews 4:13

¹³ Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

3. Every sin **MUST** be paid for before we die.

Romans 6:23a

²³ For the wages of sin is death;

Sin must be paid for by death. If we die with sin on our account then we will pay for our sin when we experience the SECOND DEATH.

Revelation 20:11-15

¹¹ And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

¹² And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

¹³ And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

¹⁴ And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

¹⁵ And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Let me now pull some thoughts together. If you are not saved then you are living with a giant sin debt on your account. On the path that you are on right this moment you are headed directly for eternal damnation.

John 3:36

³⁶ He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

If you are not saved you are under the wrath of Almighty God.

2. Can you be saved?

There are many people who think that because of their past there is no way that God would never accept them. That is a lie straight from Satan himself. There is not one person that is beyond the grace of God. Let me give you some examples of people who were saved regardless of their past.

a. The Apostle Paul

He was a terrorist that hunted Christians in order to have them put to death.

Acts 9:1-2

And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest,

² And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem.

b. David was guilty of adultery and murder.

c. Moses was guilty of murder.

These are just three but you can clearly see that they were sinners of the worst kind. It does not matter what you have done God wants to save you.

Let us notice the offers.

Revelation 21:6, 8

⁶ And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

⁸ But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

Revelation 22:17

¹⁷ And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

John 3:16-17

¹⁶ For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

From these verses you can clearly see that salvation is available to every person no matter what they have done. Before we get to how you are saved let us consider one other question.

3. What will not save you?

We need to look at what will not take away our sins.

1. Good works.

Isaiah 64:6

6 But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

Titus 3:5

5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

2. Religion.

Genesis 4:3-7

3 And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD.

4 And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering:

5 But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.

6 And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen?

7 If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.

Your church attendance will not save you. Money in the offering will not save you. Serving in the church will not save you. Helping others will not save you. There are many people sitting in churches this morning who believe that the good they have done will get them to heaven but they are deceived.

Keep in mind all sin must be paid for and I will take that a little further and tell you that sin is only forgiven by bloodshed.

Hebrews 9:22

²² *And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.*

4. How can you be saved?

God requires a blood sacrifice for the payment for your sins. This is pictured way back in the Garden of Eden.

Genesis 3:21

²¹ *Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.*

That day in the Garden God killed an innocent animal to cover the sins of Adam and Eve. This was most likely a lamb. Throughout the Old Testament there were hundreds of thousands of lambs that were slaughtered to cover sin. But covering sin is not enough. Sin must be removed and these animals could not remove sin from the sinner's account.

Hebrews 10:1-4

For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect.

² *For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins.*

³ *But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year.*

⁴ *For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.*

These could not take sin away but they were a picture of the PERFECT LAMB that was coming. This would be Jesus Christ and He would take our sin away.

John 1:29

²⁹ *The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.*

Jesus came here and went to the cross and He died to take away your sin.

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

³ *For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;*

⁴ *And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:*

1 John 3:5

⁵ *And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin.*

Jesus Christ died and shed His blood to take away our sin. How then are we saved? By believing that He was our personal Sacrifice.

Ephesians 2:8-9

⁸ *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:*

⁹ *Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

Conclusion:

Notice Acts 16:30-31