

SALVATION: GOD'S OFFER OF ETERNAL LIFE



If I were to ask you if you expected to go to heaven when your life on earth is ended, you might reply: “Yes, of course. Won’t everybody be there?” But will everybody be there? The Bible, God’s authoritative, unimpeachable word to mankind, says: “No. Absolutely not!”

Let’s look at several Scriptures which say: “No. Absolutely not!”

Matthew 7:21: Jesus speaking.

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the Kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.”

Psalms 5:4-5

“For you are not a God Who takes pleasure in wickedness, nor shall evil dwell with you. The boastful shall not stand in your sight; You hate all workers of iniquity.”

Psalms 6:8

“Depart from Me, all you workers of iniquity...”

Matthew 7:23: Jesus speaking.

“.....depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!”

Revelation 20:15

“And anyone not found written in the book of Life was cast into the Lake of Fire.”

If all those listed above will not be in heaven, who will? And more importantly, what must I do to be one of those who will be there? Acts 16:23-34 tells of a man, a jail keeper in the city of Philippi (Macedonia), who asked that same question. He asked it of two of his prisoners, Paul and Silas, because their jail behavior was not like other prisoners. They prayed and sang hymns to God at midnight, at which time God caused an earthquake that opened all the doors and loosened the chains of all the prisoners. When the jailer realized that the prison doors were open, he was about to kill himself, thinking all the prisoners had already escaped. However, Paul cried out to the jailer: “Do yourself no harm, for we are all here.” (verse 28) The jailer then “...ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. And he brought them out and said, ‘**Sirs, what must I do to be saved?**’ So they said, ‘**Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.**’” (verses 29-31)

The jail keeper was aware of his **need** to be saved and trusted the answer to his question about what to **do** to be saved. He “rejoiced, having **believed in God** with all his household.” (verse 34) It was just as Paul and Silas had told him. The joy experienced by the jail keeper when he was saved is available to all who will **believe on the Lord Jesus Christ to be saved.**

But now, I would like to list several specific items about Christ that we need to understand and embrace in believing on Him to be saved:

1. That He is The Son of God
Acts 8:37 1 John 5:5
2. That God Sent Him to Earth To Become The Perfect Blood Sacrifice For Human Sin
Matthew 1:21 Romans 5:8 1 John 4:2-3;10
3. That We Must Activate Jesus’ Sacrifice For Our Sin By Confessing Our Sins to God For Their Forgiveness and God’s Cleansing
Isaiah 1:18 1 John 1:9
4. That We Obtain The Righteousness of God Through Faith in Jesus Christ
Romans 3:21-22
5. “That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”
Romans 10:9-10

FINAL NOTE:

Salvation is not only God’s offer of eternal life, it is also the beginning point of a wonderful journey with God as His child. It is only fitting, therefore, to conclude by quoting John 1:12-13, which says this: “But as many as received Him (Jesus), **to them He gave the right (authority) to become the children of God, to those who believe in His name:** who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.” Think of it. A child of God, born of Him by genuinely believing in His Son Jesus Christ. You know, He doesn’t care who you are in becoming His child; just that you fully believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.