WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?
Acts 16:30

INTRODUCTION:
1. Here is an old subject that will always be new and fresh, because there are so many people in the world seeking for the correct answer to it.
2. More people do not know the answer than there are who do know.
3. Because it is an old and familiar subject, to the people in the church, there is a danger that it will be neglected and its importance forgotten.
4. It is the greatest QUESTION that ever challenged the mind of man.
5. The question has to do with PARDON for past sins, and HOPE for the future.

I. WHAT THE CREEDS OF MEN SAY ON THE SUBJECT
1. Some creeds teach that the sinner has NOTHING TO DO -- that it is entirely a work of God.
2. The Scriptures teach that a man must do something to be saved:
   (1) Matt. 7:21
   (2) 1 Pet. 1: 22
   (3) Heb. 5:9
   (4) Acts 10: 34 - 35
   (5) II Thess. 1: 8 - 9

II. SHALL A MAN DO WHAT SEEMS GOOD TO HIM?
1. This appears right on the surface.
2. Surely a man MUST do what seems right to him.
3. A man may do what seems right, and still not do the will of God.
   (1) Prov. 14: 12
   (2) Acts 26:9
   (3) Jeremiah 10:23

III. SHALL A MAN DO WHAT HIS PARENTS DO, AND WHAT THEY WANT HIM TO DO?
1. This also seems reasonable.
2. One must obey his parents -- Eph. 6: 1 - 4
3. But, one's parents may be in error on this matter -- Acts 5: 29
4. Jesus taught we must love Him more than parents -- Matt. 10: 34 - 37
IV. SHALL A MAN DO WHAT THE PREACHER TELLS HIM TO DO?

1. The preacher may be well educated, polished in his manners, kind and good in morals and a good speaker.

2. He can be all this, and still lead men astray from the truth.
   
   (1) I Cor. 4:6
   
   (2) I John 4:1
   
   (3) Matt. 15:14
   
   (4) II Pet. 2:1-3
   
   (5) II John 9-11
   
   (6) Matt. 7:15-20

V. DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT TEACH A SINNER TO PRAY FOR REMISSION OF HIS SINS?

1. NO

2. The Holy Spirit, through the Apostles, did not tell sinners to pray for pardon.

3. The Holy Spirit revealed to the Apostles that sinners are pardoned by LAW -- Rom. 8:2; Rom. 1:16; I Cor. 15:1-4

VI. DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT TEACH SINNERS TO EXPECT A DIRECT OPERATION OF THE SPIRIT?

1. No -- this is not taught in the New Testament.

2. There is no example of this in the New Testament.

3. The sinner always heard and obeyed the gospel -- Acts 2:37, 38, 41; Mark 16:15-16

VII. DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT TEACH THAT A MAN IS SAVED BY FAITH ONLY?

1. NO

2. James 2:24

3. Heb. 5:8-9


5. Matt. 7:21

VIII. WHAT, THEN, DOES THE NEW TESTAMENT TELL MEN TO DO TO BE SAVED?

1. The answer is first found in Peter's sermon on Pentecost.
   
   (1) The Question asked -- Acts 2:37
   
   (2) The Question answered -- Acts 2:38
   
   (3) A believer should repent and be baptized
   
   (4) Acts 2:47

2. The answer is found in Paul's reply to the Philippian Jailer.
1. Acts 16: 30 - 31

2. Here is an unbeliever, and the first thing he needed to do was to believe.

3. "And they spake to him the Word of the Lord" -- Acts 16:32

4. They did this to produce faith in his heart -- Rom. 10:17

5. He repented -- shown by what he did -- Acts 16:33

6. And, he was baptized -- Acts 16:33

3. Paul asked Jesus the question on the Damascus Road:

   1. Acts 28:10 -- "And I said, What shall I do, Lord?"

   2. Jesus told him to go into the city and it would be told him -- Acts 22:10

   3. HERE IS WHAT HE WAS TOLD -- Acts 22:16

CONCLUSION:

1. There are many cases of conversions recorded in the book of Acts.

2. Not all of the details are recorded in every case.

3. But, all the cases harmonize.

4. When you study the cases you see a PATTERN:

   1. People HEARD the gospel -- Acts 2:37

   2. People BELIEVED -- Acts 8:12

   3. People REPENTED -- Acts 2:38

   4. People CONFESSED -- Acts 8:37

   5. People were BAPTIZED to be saved -- Acts 22:16

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