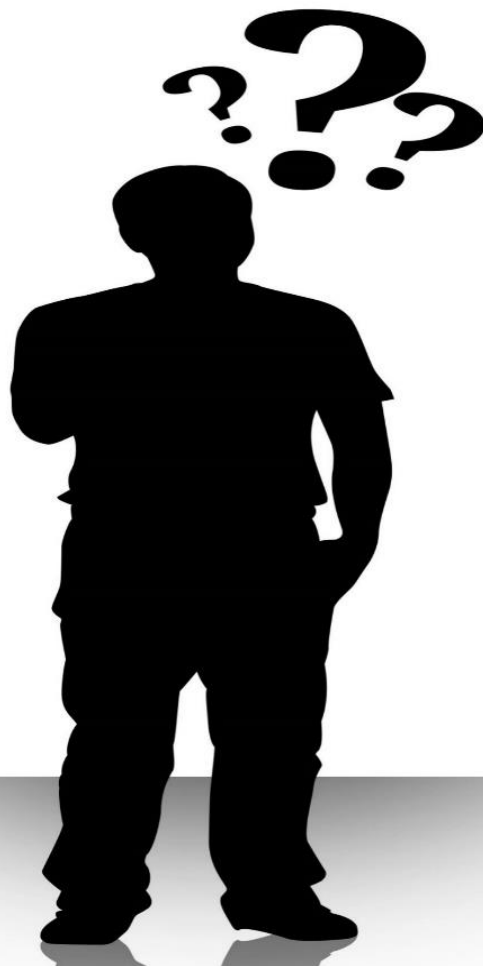


# Is There Really A Way To Be Saved?



Discovering God's Word

Bible Study Series

# Is There Really A Way To Be Saved?

Learn from some evidence for the existence of a way to be saved and consider what you should do with this knowledge

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Discovering God's Word Bible Study Series

**Study Number:** DGW146

Written by Eric Krieg

**About the author:** My name is Eric Krieg. I am a disciple of Jesus, a Bible student, a truth seeker, and an evangelist. My interest is in using the Bible as my only guide in my faith. My desire is to help others understand the message of the Bible and pursue true, New Testament Christianity.

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**My plea:** It is my hope and prayer that you are searching for the truth that is contained in God's word, the Bible. My desire is to help you understand and obey these truths God has revealed in the pages of His word. It is to that end that I write this material. Please observe all of the Scripture references and evaluate whether the conclusions I have drawn are in harmony with God's word. If they are, I ask that you make honest application of those truths to your life and obey God's instructions.

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# Is There Really A Way To Be Saved?

Is there really a way that God has provided for people who have committed sin to be saved from eternal punishment in Hell fire? This is a question that must be answered in order to have any kind of hope while you live on this earth. For, without a way to be saved from the consequences of sin, then we would all be headed for an eternity of absolute torment – because we have all sinned. Life would be truly dreadful and the absolute best that it will ever get for any of us. Then, if there really was no hope of being saved from our sins, we might as well live every moment clinging to our earthly lives and doing whatever pleases ourselves. However, if there is a way that God has provided for people to be saved from the consequences of their sins, then this offers true hope and completely changes the way we will live our lives.

You see, the problem that everyone who has reached the age of moral accountability must face is sin. The Bible is quite clear in teaching us that “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). “Sin” refers to violating the law of God. For instance, 1 John 3:4 says, “Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.” So, sin is acting without or contrary to the law of God.

James 1:14-15 explains the entire process of sin. “But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.” Satan tempts us by

appealing to our earthly desires. He tries to entice us with these desires to do something that is contrary to the law of God. He wants us to choose to please ourselves rather than please and listen to God. Then, whenever we act upon those desires in a way that is contrary to God’s laws, desire conceives and gives birth to sin. That is, sin is the result. Then, the result of sin is spiritual death.

Spiritual death is the separation between a person and God. It is in this way that an individual can be dead while physically alive (see 1 Timothy 5:6). This means that an individual lives his/her earthly life while separated from all of the spiritual blessings that God provides. Then, this ultimately means that we are headed for eternity in Hell fire. Revelation 21:8 describes this as the “second death.” “But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”

Then, you need to recognize that this eternal separation from God in Hell is what you deserve (and what we all deserve) for sinning against God. It is what we have earned. Romans 6:23 says, “For the wages of sin is death...” So, there is no one can you can rightly blame for your separation from God and eternal torment in Hell besides yourself. You are the one who has decided to rebel against the law of God and live to please yourself. Therefore, you have brought on yourself the eternal consequences of that decision (or, those decisions).

But, there is good news! Thankfully, Romans 6:23 does not end there. Instead, the full verse says, “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” God has provided the gift of eternal life! This is not something that anyone can earn. Instead, eternal life in Heaven has been made available through the love, grace, and mercy of God (see Ephesians 2:1-10). And, it is only available in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This is the greatest news that mankind has ever heard or will ever hear! And, there is only one place that you can hear this “good news”: The gospel of Jesus Christ. In fact, the word “gospel” means “good news.” This is the message of the New

Testament. The gospel of Jesus Christ contains all of the information about Jesus Christ, as well as all of the teachings of Jesus and those who were inspired of the Holy Spirit (who was sent by Jesus).

Listen to the significance of the gospel's message, as explained in Romans 1:16: "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek." This message is being used by God to save people from their sins! For, it is the only message that exists powerful enough to convict people of their sins, describe the opportunity God has given through Jesus Christ to be saved eternally, and convince people to turn their lives away from sin and serve the Lord!

With such a great opportunity of salvation that has been placed before each and every one of us, we should not be left feeling hopeless (unless, of course, we choose to reject that saving message). Instead, we should focus on learning and obeying the way of salvation that God has provided. For, it is the only opportunity that any of us have to be saved eternally and it tells us of the greatest sacrifice that mankind has ever known.

In this lesson, we want to consider some basics of what God has done to save you and sinners like you from eternal torment in Hell. We will also be considering what the gospel offers to you, should you decide to accept its offer. Then, we will consider what the gospel of Jesus Christ requires of you in order to accept its offer of salvation. And, we will consider what all of this means for how you should live your life on earth.

## ***The Gospel Centers Around Jesus Christ***

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The gospel of Jesus Christ is good news. And, this good news centers around Jesus Christ. Without Him, there would be no good news. For instance, whenever Jesus' birth was announced, an angel said, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For

there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:10-11). Let's consider some of the elements about Jesus' life, death, burial, and resurrection that would result in such great news.

### **His life**

Jesus did not just come into existence whenever He was born on this earth. Instead, Jesus possesses all of the nature of being God (see John 1:1-3). He is eternal and was with the Father in Heaven. This makes Jesus' earthly life even more significant. Since He possesses the full nature of being God, Jesus Christ was God living as man (see Matthew 1:23). 2 Corinthians 8:9 says, "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich." He willingly chose to leave Heaven (which is the place we should all long to go) and come to earth in order to experience all that we will now begin to discuss.

Jesus Christ was miraculously born of a virgin (see Matthew 1:23-25), in fulfillment of the prophecy made concerning Him. And, throughout His life on this earth, He fulfilled roughly 300 Old Testament prophecies. All of this demonstrated that He really was the Savior God had promised to send into this world.

While Jesus was on this earth, He was entirely focused on the mission His Heavenly Father had sent Him to accomplish. You see, God had a plan for saving mankind in His mind from eternity. This plan would be accomplished through Jesus Christ. Ephesians 3:11 references this as the "eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Jesus' work on this earth was focused on accomplishing this mission. This included fulfilling the Law of Moses and the prophecies that had been made concerning the Messiah. For instance, Jesus said, "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill" (Matthew 5:17). As He walked on this earth, Jesus was involved in preaching the coming of His kingdom. In doing so, He was laying the groundwork for His new law that would be established after His

death. He spoke about the opportunity that people would have to be part of the kingdom of Heaven (the church). In Luke 9:27, Jesus said, “But I tell you truly, there are some standing here who shall not taste death till they see the kingdom of God.” And, Jesus was focused on His mission of seeking and saving the lost. Luke 19:10 says, “for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.” Jesus lived His life so that He would be the perfect sacrifice for sin.

As Jesus lived on the earth, He performed many signs and miracles for the people so that they would know He really was the Son of God – and not just a man who was claiming to be the Savior of the world. John 20:30-31 says, “And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.”

Jesus never wavered from the mission of God during His life on this earth. Although He was tempted in all of the same ways that we are tempted, Jesus never sinned (Hebrews 4:15). One recorded instance of Jesus being tempted is in Matthew 4:1-11. This text records Jesus being tempted three times by the devil. But, although Jesus could have chosen to fulfill His own physical desires rather than God’s, He chose to serve God and resist temptation. In doing this, Jesus could be the perfect sacrifice for the sins of the world.

## **His death**

While Jesus lived on this earth, many people hated Him. They hated Him because of who He claimed to be and because Jesus’ perfect life exposed their own sinfulness. Yet, Jesus came to this earth knowing that He would be hated by the majority of the people here. He knew that He was coming to earth to sacrifice His life for the sins of the world. For instance, Jesus was even able to tell His followers that He would “suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day” (Matthew 16:21). But, He came anyways!

Whenever Jesus knew that the time of His death was drawing near, Jesus prayed to His Father in the Garden of Gethsemane. During this time, He was in great agony. He prayed, “Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not my will, but Yours be done” (Luke 22:42). Jesus did not want to suffer all that He knew was awaiting Him. But, He was determined to fulfill the Father’s will. If there would be no other way to accomplish God’s plan of salvation, Jesus would willingly endure what He knew awaited Him.

There was no other way. Upon rising from prayer, one of Jesus’ own apostles (a man named Judas Iscariot) came with the enemies of Jesus and betrayed Him for 30 pieces of silver by identifying Jesus with a kiss. After this, Jesus was arrested. A bit later, another one of Jesus’ apostles denied any knowledge of or association with Jesus Christ on three occasions. In fact, all of Jesus’ disciples forsook Him and fled when He was arrested.

Those who sought to put Jesus to death put on a rigged trial in which they even sought false accusers against Jesus. After all, Jesus had not done anything wrong. So, they could only put Him to death based on false charges. The Jews demanded that Jesus be crucified whenever Jesus stood trial before the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate. The people were even willing to release a known murder in order to have Jesus crucified.

In addition to this, Jesus was mocked, blasphemed, beaten, spat on, and scourged. Specifically, the Roman practice of scourging was brutal. Often, the prisoner would not even live through this punishment! The prisoner would be stripped of his clothing and stretched over a frame in order to make the process more painful. Then, he would be beaten with a whip that would often have pieces of bone or metal woven into it, which would tear at the flesh.

Then, after being severely beaten, Jesus was delivered over to be crucified. The books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John all record Jesus dying upon the cross. He was fastened to the cross by having nails driven through His hands and feet. There, Jesus suffered and hung upon the cross until He breathed His last.

## **His burial**

Jesus' body was taken down from the cross and placed in the tomb belonging to Joseph of Arimathea (see Matthew 27:57-60). A large stone was hewn out of the rock and rolled in front of the opening of the tomb. At this point in the narrative, you may even be asking, "Has Jesus and God been defeated?"

The Biblical record goes on to describe how that the Jews were afraid of Jesus' body being stolen by His disciples since Jesus had said that He would rise from the dead on the third day. Therefore, the Jews asked the governor for guards to be placed at Jesus' tomb. In response, Pilate instructed the Jews to make the tomb as secure as they knew how – sealing the stone and setting the guard.

## **His resurrection**

Matthew 28:1-10 describes the miraculous events of Jesus' resurrection from the dead. On the first day of the week (the third day), Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to Jesus' tomb. Then, there was a great earthquake as an angel of the Lord descended from Heaven and rolled back the stone from the door and sat on it. The angel appeared like lightning, and his clothing was white as snow. The guards even shook for fear of him and they became like dead men.

Notice, then, what the angel informed the women (in Matthew 28:6): "He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay." Consequently, they were to go and tell the disciples that Jesus had risen from the dead! As they went to tell the disciples, Jesus appeared to them. In fact, the risen Christ appeared to many. For instance, He appeared to all of the apostles and was even seen by over 500 people at once (see 1 Corinthians 15:3-9).

After remaining on earth for a period of time, Acts 1:9-11 records that Jesus was taken up in a cloud out of sight into Heaven. Two men (probably two angels) promised that Jesus would come again in the same manner as those individuals had just witnessed Jesus go into Heaven. Today, Acts 2:29-35 reveals that Jesus Christ is sitting at the "right

hand of God" (a most honored position), awaiting the time of His return.

## ***What The Gospel Offers***

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Because of the life, death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, there is good news for you (and for all mankind). But, what exactly does the sacrifice of Jesus Christ mean for you? What is it that God offers you because of Him? Let's briefly consider.

### **An opportunity to be forgiven**

After you had committed sin, there was nothing that you could do in order to be forgiven of the sins that you had committed. You simply could not do enough good works to take away your past unrighteousness. But, through Jesus Christ, you have the opportunity to be forgiven of your sins. Romans 5:8-9 says, "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him."

To be "justified" is to be just as if you had never committed sin. So, there is forgiveness of your past sins. 1 John 1:7 says that "the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin." Now, having been given the opportunity to have all of your past sins washed away by the blood of Jesus Christ, you can be saved from the wrath that God has promised to show on those who do not obey Him (2 Thessalonians 1:8-9)! You can now be saved from eternal torment in Hell fire – by the blood of Jesus Christ!

### **An opportunity to be in Christ**

When you were living in your sins, you were separated from God and all the spiritual blessings available through Him. You were without Christ, without hope, and without God (Ephesians 2:12). "But now in Christ you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ" (Ephesians 2:13).

Ephesians 1:3 explains the significance of being “in Christ.” It says, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.” These spiritual blessings that are only found in Jesus Christ include the forgiveness of sins (Ephesians 1:7), peace with God (Romans 5:1), the adoption as sons of God (Ephesians 1:5), and eternal salvation (2 Timothy 2:10).

### **An opportunity to live eternally**

We have already seen that in Jesus Christ you have the opportunity to be saved from the wrath of God. Now, you must recognize that through Jesus Christ, not only can you avoid Hell, but you can actually live eternally in Heaven! This hope for eternal life through Jesus Christ is directly tied in with both His death and His resurrection. Consider Romans 5:9-11. “Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.”

Without the resurrection of Jesus Christ, God would have been defeated. But, by God showing His power to raise Jesus from the dead He both forever demonstrated Jesus to be His Son and provided the victory over death. 1 Corinthians 15:16-19 explains how we would be hopeless without Jesus’ resurrection from the dead. “For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.”

## ***What The Gospel Requires***

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In everything God has done for us through Jesus Christ there are tremendous blessings and an opportunity to hope! But, although the salvation-

bringing grace of God has appeared (or, has been made available) to everyone (Titus 2:11), Jesus taught that not everyone would be saved. In fact, He taught that most people would be lost (Matthew 7:13-14). So, by implication, there must be something required of each one of us in order to be saved and access the blessings of God’s grace and the gospel.

### **Die with Christ**

The message of the gospel tells you that Jesus Christ willingly gave His life on the cross for you – so that you could be saved from the eternal consequences of your sins. However, He did *not* do so in order for you to continue living in your sins! Instead, the Scriptures teach that Jesus Christ gave His life for you so that you would give your life to Him! Thus, the Scriptures discuss the importance of those who follow Christ to be crucified with Christ.

Galatians 2:20 says, “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.” Similarly, Romans 6:1-4 says, “What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”

But, how do we die with Christ and live for Him? The answer to this is found through obeying the gospel’s plan of salvation. Before we consider what it is (specifically) God has commanded of you in order to be saved from your sins and have everlasting life in Heaven, please realize that God has required you to obey Him. As we consider these passages, please recognize the fact that God requires more of you than just mentally accepting Jesus as Christ and Savior.

In Matthew 7:21-23, Jesus taught that there would be many people on the Day of Judgment who would profess to be followers of His. They will say that they believed in Him and that they had even done

many wonderful works in His name. However, Jesus will sentence them to eternal punishment in Hell because they had not been obedient to the will of God. Also, in 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9, Paul states that those who do not know God and those who do not obey the gospel of Jesus Christ will be punished with everlasting destruction and experience the wrath of the Almighty God. Furthermore, Hebrews 5:9 says that Jesus Christ became “the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him.”

These passages are just a sample of how the gospel commands you to be obedient to its message. Yes, it does matter what you believe and practice in the name of religion – and even in the name of “Christianity.” You must contend earnestly for the faith of the gospel (Philippians 1:27; Jude 1:3). This involves holding fast to the pattern of sound words contained throughout the entire New Testament (2 Timothy 1:13). For, as 2 John 1:9-11 says, if you do not abide in the doctrine of Christ (all of the teaching of the New Testament), you do not have God!

## **The gospel’s plan of salvation**

Having established that the gospel requires you to give your life entirely to God and be obedient to His teachings throughout the New Testament, you need to consider what God requires you to do in order to be saved. Although mankind answers the question, “What must I do to be saved?” in many different ways, let’s consider what God says (as He will be the one you will be judged by on the Last Day)! What does the gospel require of you in order to be saved?

(1) Hear His word. “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Romans 10:17). Hearing God’s message and instructions, necessarily, comes before an individual can believe and obey them (Acts 18:8)! You need to hear the basic truths that we have been establishing about what God has done for you so that you can be saved from your sins and about your responsibilities for salvation.

(2) Believe. Faith/belief in God and Christ is essential for salvation. “But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him” (Hebrews 11:6). The

Bible consistently points to the essential nature of faith (John 3:16; Romans 10:9-10; etc.). For instance, Jesus said, “Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins” (John 8:24). However, the Bible also teaches that faith without works of obedience will not save us (James 2:14-26)!

(3) Repent of your sins. Jesus said, “unless you repent you will all likewise perish” (Luke 13:3). God now “commands all men everywhere to repent” (Acts 17:30). Repentance involves a change in mindset regarding past sin (to view past sin with abhorrence and to determine to live differently in the future). Repentance is often commanded in the Scriptures (i.e. Acts 2:38; Acts 3:19). You simply cannot die with Christ unless you put the old man of sin to death through repentance and turning to Jesus Christ for a new way of living (see Romans 6:3-4).

(4) Confess Christ. Romans 10:9-10 says, “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.” The confession that is commanded in this passage is *not* a confession of your sins; but, the confession of the Lord Jesus with your mouth. A good example of this confession is found in Acts 8:37 when the man of Ethiopia (just prior to being baptized) said, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”

(5) Be immersed in water (baptized). Jesus said, “He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but, he who does not believe will be condemned” (Mark 16:16). Baptism is necessary for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16). Paul wrote that you are “baptized into Christ” (Galatians 3:27). That is, baptism brings you into union with Jesus Christ. Peter wrote that baptism “now saves us” – just as water saved Noah and his family (1 Peter 3:20-21). Clearly, the Bible teaches that baptism is necessary for salvation. Baptism is the point at which an individual becomes a Christian and is forgiven of his/her sins. It is at this point that the sinner is washed, justified, and sanctified through the blood of Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Acts 18:8; Acts 22:16)! It is also important to understand that the Bible teaches the action involved in being baptized is



immersion in water (not sprinkling or pouring – and not Holy Spirit baptism). In fact, baptism is described as being a “burial” in Romans 6:3-4 and Colossians 2:12. Therefore, that old man of sin we put to death is buried with Christ in baptism and we are raised to walk in newness of life!

(6) Remain faithful. When you hear God’s word, believe, repent of your sins, confess Christ, and are immersed in water for the forgiveness of your sins, you become a Christian – and are added to Christ’s church (Acts 2:41, 47)! However, this does not mean that you are “once saved, always saved”! Instead, the Bible teaches that you must be faithful to the Lord unto death in order to receive the crown of life (the eternal reward in Heaven, Revelation 2:10). This will involve doing all of the things God has commanded you to do as a Christian (i.e. teach the gospel to others, do good to all as you have opportunity, be transformed in your character, live a holy life, etc.). You must faithfully obey God throughout your earthly life, because it is possible for you to sin so as to be lost (see Galatians 5:4; Hebrews 10:26-39).

### **This plan has often been perverted!**

The gospel’s plan of salvation (as we’ve just discussed) is not difficult – and can be obeyed by anyone who is willing! However, most (so-called) “Christian” churches, pastors, preachers, etc. have perverted this plan of salvation. Instead of teaching this God-given plan of salvation, most churches teach a (so-called) “plan of salvation” that involves “faith only,” the “Sinner’s Prayer,” “infant baptism,” etc.

A large percentage of so-called “Christian” churches today have perverted God’s plan of salvation on the subject of baptism. For instance, these churches commonly teach that you are saved first, and baptized later. That is, the point at which you are a Christian, are forgiven of your sins, and are saved is said to be before your baptism. However, the Bible teaches the exact opposite. The Bible teaches that you must be baptized in order to be saved (Mark 16:16; 1 Peter 3:20-21). The Bible teaches that you must be baptized in order to be forgiven of your sins (Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16). The Bible teaches that you must be baptized in order to be in Christ and access

all of the spiritual blessings available through Him (Galatians 3:26-27). Therefore, those who have been baptized, thinking they are already saved, forgiven, or in Christ were not baptized for the right reasons – according to God’s true purpose of baptism.

Others have perverted God’s plan of salvation by saying that baptism can be accomplished by immersion, sprinkling, or pouring. Many have said that the method of baptism makes no difference to God. Yet, the Bible (as I have already demonstrated) teaches that God only approves of immersion for baptism. In fact, the original Greek word “baptism” means “immersion.” So, every time God commands baptism, He commands immersion. Then, the pictures in the Bible for baptism are pictures of immersion (see Matthew 3:16; Acts 8:38-39). In baptism, you are imitating the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ (Romans 6:3-4).

Then, there are many who teach that once you are saved, you are always saved and can never be lost again. However, the Bible clearly teaches the possibility of falling from the grace of God after accessing it. For instance, Galatians 5:4 says, “You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.” Many other passages of Scripture also demonstrate the continued responsibility that Christians have to live faithfully to Jesus Christ after accessing God’s grace.

While there are many false teachings in this world about what God requires you to do in order to be saved, you must simply determine that you will believe and obey the teachings of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Remember, there is no other message that will save us! Even the religious teachings of man will fail to save us if they differ in any way from the true message of the gospel. And, God has warned us that there are many who preach false gospels (see Galatians 1:6-12; 2 Peter 2:1-3; 2 John 1:9-11)!

# ***Living With The Reality Of Salvation***

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Because God loves you, He sent His only begotten Son to die on the cross to provide the sacrifice necessary to forgive sin (John 3:16). Now, He gives you the opportunity to be forgiven. So, please consider how you should respond to the reality of salvation.

## **Obey God's plan of salvation**

As we have seen, God's plan of salvation involves two parts. First, there was God's part. In this, God did for mankind what man was unable to do for himself. Mankind could never provide the sacrifice necessary to bring about salvation. Instead, God has accomplished this through Jesus Christ. Second, there is man's part. God has not saved everyone against their will. He has made salvation available – and left it up to each individual to choose whether to believe and obey Him or not. Hebrews 5:9 says that Jesus “became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him.” So, if you want to be saved, you must believe and obey the message of the gospel!

## **Let the love of Christ control you**

God has loved you so much that He gave His only begotten Son to die for you. He watched Him leave Heaven to go on a mission that God knew would result in His Son being severely mistreated, experiencing tremendous pain, and being put to death on the cross. Jesus Christ willingly left Heaven to come to earth and experience all of this so that you can be saved from the sins you have committed. Therefore, you should rejoice and be ever grateful for what God and Christ have done for you. 2 Corinthians 9:15 says, “Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!” Then, as you consider the sacrifice that was made for you because of the love of God, the love of Christ ought to compel (control) you. 2 Corinthians 5:14-15 says, “For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for

themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.” Your life must no longer be about yourself and your desires. Instead, if you are truly thankful for the love of Christ, you will give your entire life over to His control and be obedient to Him in all things!

## ***Conclusion***

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Yes, there really is a way to be saved! Although you do not deserve to be saved, God's love, grace, and mercy provides you with this opportunity to be saved from the consequences of your sins and have everlasting life in Heaven. But, will you believe and obey the full message of the gospel in order to be saved?

## ***Study Questions***

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Why do you need to be saved?

### **1. The Gospel Centers Around Jesus Christ**

Describe Jesus' life.

Describe Jesus' death.

Describe Jesus' burial.

Describe Jesus' resurrection.

### **2. What The Gospel Offers**

How does the gospel offer an opportunity to be forgiven?

How does the gospel offer an opportunity to be in Christ?

How does the gospel offer an opportunity to live eternally?

### **3. What The Gospel Requires**

What does it mean to die with Christ?

What is the gospel's plan of salvation?

How has the gospel's plan of salvation been perverted?

### **4. Living With The Reality Of Salvation**

Why should you obey God's plan of salvation?

Why should you let the love of Christ control you?