

# 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?

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

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

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2. For what did Christ die (**1 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 in God or any combination of these actions. For one to truly believe (trust) in Christ, that person must remove his trust from whatever he feels will get him to Heaven. He must place all his trust in Jesus Christ alone to save him.

7. How does one actually put his trust in Christ? (Read **Romans 10:13**.) What is a person to do?

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8. Do you think that the man in **Luke 23:42** was placing his trust in Christ?

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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 think that you could gain entrance into Heaven by doing the same as the man in **Luke 23:42**? (Read **Romans 10:13**.)

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## WHY NOT PUT YOUR TRUST IN 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. Talk to the Lord. He's ready to listen. Admit to Him that you are a sinner, and believe that Christ died for your sins and rose again from the dead. He will save you and come into your life.

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