

Redwater Restorer

"The voice of one crying in the wilderness..." (Matthew 3:3)

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"What Must I Do To Be Saved?"

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Redwater
Church of Christ

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It must be agreed by all those who believe the Bible that the world's greatest question is, *"What must I do to be saved?"* or *"What shall I do, Lord?"* or *"Men and brethren, what shall we do?"* (Acts 22:10; 2:37; 9:6.) This question has to do with the soul of man and eternal destiny. The soul of one man in one side of the balances would outweigh the whole world in the other side! Jesus said, *"What is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"* (Matt. 16:26.) Once the soul is lost eternally, it will be too late to do anything about our great question.

Question Analyzed

But let us analyze our question and show that it is very simple. First of all there are two parts to the question. *"What must I do"* refers to the sinner's part, and *"to be saved"* refers to God's part of the plan. In other words the sinner must believe and put his faith into obedience in order to be saved of God, and on God's terms. But let us further analyze the question. *"What"* - of all things possible to be done, just what

must one do to be saved? *"What must"* - it is not what may one do. Jesus said, *"It shall be told thee what thou must do."* (Acts 9:6.) Again, it is *"What must I"* - it is not what must God, Christ, or the Holy Spirit do. All heaven has already moved and done its part, and it is our move next. It is *"What must I do?"* It is not how must I feel or what must I imagine, or what must be done to me, but *"What must I do?"* it is not what must I do to blot out my own sins apart from God but what must I do *"to be saved."*

Jailer's Question Answered

When the jailer asked *"What must I do to be saved?"* (Acts 16:30), he knew little or nothing about Christ and had no faith in Him. However, the earthquake of the occasion and the miracle in evidence confirmed the fact that Paul and Silas were servants of God. In answer to his question they began at the very first and said, *"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house."* This was a sort of blanket proposition meaning that he would have to obey Christ and trust in Him for salvation. They then

"What Must I Do To Be Saved?" (Cont.)

preached Christ unto him so he could believe, for faith comes by hearing the word. (Acts 16:32; Romans 10:17.) He evidently believed and repented for he took them and tried to undo the harm done, and washed their stripes. He also was baptized the same hour of the night - at midnight. (Acts 16:25, 33.) He was then saved by Christ who had said in the commission, "*He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved.*" He rejoiced after his baptism. He did not attempt to have his sins prayed away at an altar. He also was saved by obedient faith and not by faith only. (Heb. 5:9.)

Answered On Pentecost

When many asked our great question on Pentecost saying, "*What shall we do?*" (Acts 2:37), unlike the jailer, they had just heard about Christ and been called upon to believe in Him as "*Lord and Christ*" (Acts 2:37.) They had been pricked in their hearts by the truth which they had heard pointing out their guilt in the murder of Christ. (Acts 2:37.) Since they were already believers, but had not put their faith into obedience, they were simply told what to do by faith in order to be saved. The apostle said, "*Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy*

Ghost." (Acts 2:38.) They were to do this "*for the remission of sins*" for which Christ had shed his blood. (Matt. 26:28.) The record says, "*They then that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.*" (Acts 2:41.) The last verse says, "*And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.*" (Acts 2:47.) In no case were any said to be saved who had not heard the gospel and obeyed it. Furthermore, the Lord added all of them to the same church, the church of Christ which he had said he would build. (Matt. 16:18; Acts 2:47; Eph. 1:22, 23; 5:23; 2:16; 4:4.) They were simply Christians and wore no human religious name. (Acts 11:26; 1 Pet. 4:16; James 2:7.) They subscribed to no human creed and were members of no denominational church. They were united in the one body as Christ had prayed that they should be. (John 17:20, 21; Eph. 4:3.)

The plan which saved men then and added them to the one true church can achieve the same in your life today. What must you do to be saved ?

Mark Miller

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