

WHY I AM A MEMBER OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST #15

I Am A Member Of The Church Of Christ Because...

IT TEACHES WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES IN ANSWERING THE QUESTION "WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?"

In Acts 16, Paul and Silas were imprisoned at Philippi for preaching the Gospel. At midnight, they were singing praises to God when an earthquake opened its doors. Thinking the prisoners had escaped, the jailor was about to kill himself when Paul stopped him. The jailor asked, "...*what must I do to be saved*" (Acts 16:30)? This same question was asked on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2:37 and answered in verse 38.

The answer given to this question is essential to being saved. Unless one does what the Bible says to be saved, one cannot be saved. The answer given in both cases was regarding what the individuals had to do. The jailor, not having the religious background of those on Pentecost, was told he must first believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. It was obvious he did not know what to believe, so he was taught. To those in Acts 2, belief in Christ is not mentioned when they asked the question because it's evident they already believed. They were fully aware of the facts of Jesus' life as well as his death on the cross. Peter's sermon explained the details of the Lord's resurrection. Faith was produced in the hearts of those who cried out, "*what shall we do*" (Acts 2:37). Since they already believed, they were simply told to **repent and be baptized for the forgiveness of sins** (Acts 2:38).

The jailor, on the other hand, did not know about faith in Christ, so he was taught about the Lord Jesus (Acts 16:32). Having received instruction, which included water baptism, he was baptized that same hour of the night (Acts 16:33). We find that both the jailor and those on Pentecost **believed** in Christ, **repented** of sins and were **baptized** for the remission of their sins (Acts 2:38; 16:33).

Every account of conversion in the book of Acts always shows the individuals doing the same things: **believing** in Jesus the Christ (John 8:24; Mark 16:16; John 14:6), **repenting** of their sins (Luke 13:3,5; Acts 2:38; 3:19; 17:30), **confessing** faith in Jesus as the Son of God (Acts 8:37; Rom. 10:9-10), and being **immersed in water** for the forgiveness of their sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16; Rom. 6:3-6).

Jesus taught the same thing, saying "**he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved**" (Mark 16:16). Water baptism puts one INTO Christ (Gal. 3:27; Rom. 6:3). Salvation is IN Christ (2 Tim. 2:10). According to First Peter 3:21, water baptism saves. That is, it is the final act one obeys that puts them in contact with the blood of Christ that washes sins away (Rev. 1:7; Eph. 1:7). Saul's sins were washed away when he was baptized (Acts 22:16).

The church of Christ teaches what the Bible teaches to do to be saved. Denominational churches refuse to teach what Paul, Peter and Jesus taught (Acts 16:31-33; Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16).

— Garland M. Robinson