

In Acts chapters 10 and 11 we see the conversion of Cornelius, the first Gentile, and a very good, moral man who needed Christ. He was devout, he feared God with all his house, he prayed to God always, he fasted, he gave much alms to the people, and he was well respected by the Jews, who would normally have hated a Roman centurion. But Acts 11:14 says that Cornelius, with all of his moral goodness, was unsaved. He needed forgiveness of sins in Christ. He was taught the gospel and believed (Acts 10:43), he repented of sins (Acts 11:18), and he was baptized in the name of Jesus (Acts 10:48). Baptism in the name of Jesus was for remission of sins (Acts 2:38). Many good, moral men today, like Cornelius, need to be saved by the gospel of Christ and not think that goodness of character can save.

Acts 16 records the salvation of a pagan jailer in Philippi. He was taught (Acts 16:32), he believed in Christ (verse 31), he repented of his sins (verse 33), and he was baptized the same hour of the night (after midnight). Acts 18 says that the Corinthians "hearing, believed, and were baptized" (Acts 18:8).

Acts 19 records the salvation of twelve men who had been taught and baptized wrong, but who were taught right and baptized right by Paul. This example teaches those whose baptism was not scriptural to be baptized right. Paul asked, "Unto what were ye baptized?" This is asking the purpose of their baptism. When anyone today discovers that the purpose or manner of his baptism was wrong, he should immediately be baptized right.

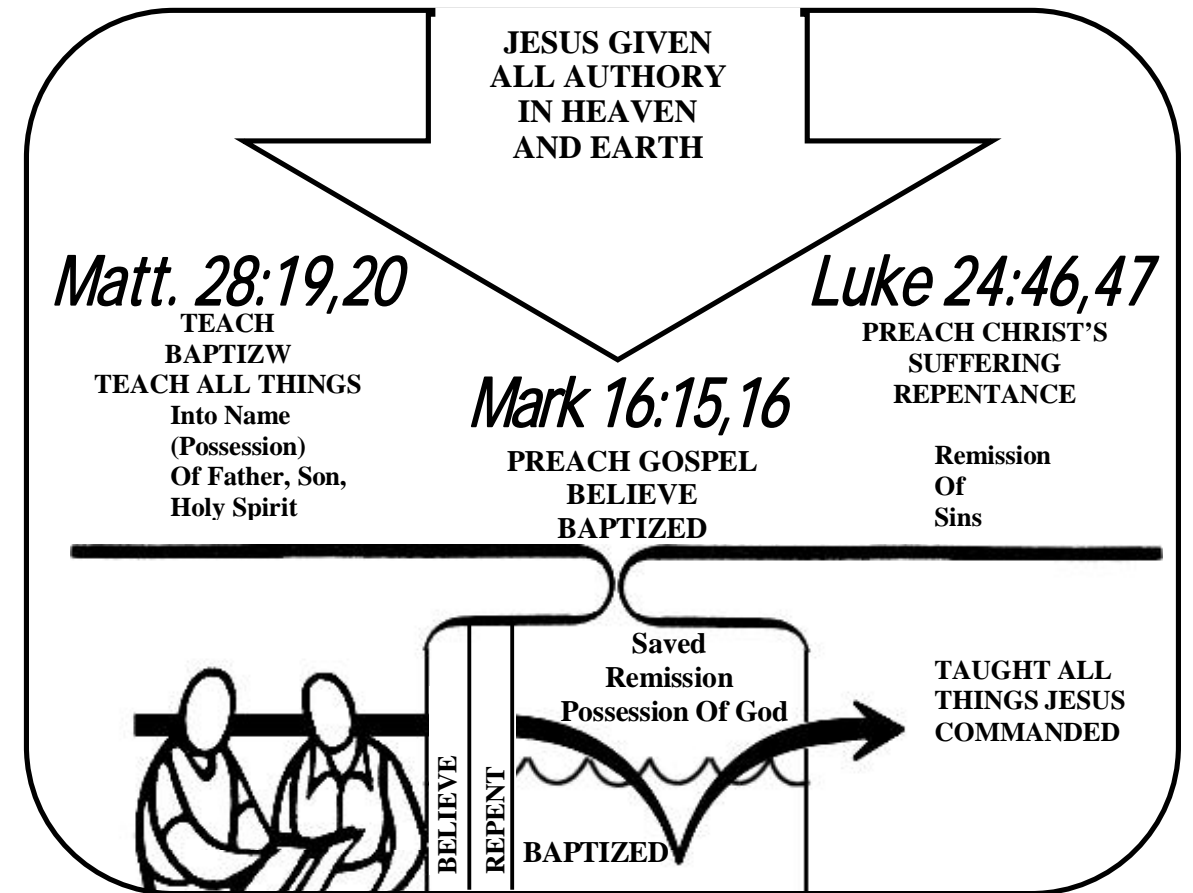
Acts 8 records the conversion of Simon, the sorcerer. Verse 13 says that he believed and was baptized. This meant, according to Jesus, that he was saved (Mark 16:16). But Simon soon sinned (verses 20-23), and Peter commanded him to repent and pray for forgiveness (verse 22). Simon then asked Peter to pray for him (verse 24). This example shows what a Christian must do when he sins. He must repent, confess his sins, and pray for forgiveness.

Examples of conversion in Acts thus give a clear and forceful picture of how the apostles carried out the great commission. They bound what heaven had bound: teaching, believing, repenting, and being baptized. What all men today must do is exactly what all men then had to do in order to be saved.

But some things happened in the cases of conversion in Acts which were not a part of the great commission. These things (see the list), like tongues like fire on the apostles, angels speaking, and seeing an earthquake, were needed in each case for a purpose other than salvation. Saul was called to be an apostle by his vision of Christ. One does not need to see a vision of Christ to be saved. Cornelius received the Holy Spirit directly and spoke in tongues. But these things were necessary for the Jews to be willing to baptize a Gentile (Acts 10:47). They are not steps necessary for salvation. We must bind only what the apostles bound, but we must not bind things not required in the great commission of every creature.

The reason that I need to be saved is that I am lost. Until I am in Christ, I am separate from Christ, cut off from God's promises, and without hope and without God in the world (Ephesians 2:12). But faith in Christ Jesus as my sin-bearer, repentance of my sins, and baptism into Christ to put on Christ (Galatians 3:26, 27) puts me in Christ where all spiritual blessings are (Ephesians 1:3), Every thinking person will choose to be saved in Christ, rather than to risk eternal separation from God in hell.

# WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED ?



**WHAT JESUS BOUND!**

**WHAT THE APOSTLES BOUND!**

## WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

This is the most important question on earth! Much more important than what to do to be rich, to be healthy, or to be popular. "For what is a man profited if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul?" (Matthew 16:26).

This great question is itself a sermon. The word "what" shows that something specific, not just anything, is necessary. "Must" shows that something is necessary, not just optional. "I" shows that salvation is very personal, an individual matter. "Do" shows that action, not just inward belief, is required. "To be saved" is in the passive voice grammatically, and shows that God does the saving, and I only receive what He does.

The only correct answer to this question is the answer of Jesus. Jesus has been given all power or authority in heaven and on earth (Matthew 28:18). Since Jesus has "all" authority, no man or group of men has any. Since Jesus has all authority on earth as well as in heaven, He has not left a pope or an archbishop on earth with His authority. No creed of a church has any authority. Traditions of men transgress the commandments of God, make void the commandments of God, and make worship vain (Matthew 15:3, 6, 9).

Jesus and His apostles warned seriously against changing Scripture. He said, "The Scripture cannot be broken" (John 10:35). Paul said that anyone perverting (corrupting) the gospel would be accursed (Galatians 1:6-9). Going beyond the doctrine of Christ breaks one's fellowship with God (2 John 9). God will punish those who add to His Word, and He will take away their part from heaven who take away from Scripture (Revelation 22:18,19).

Jesus commanded the apostles to preach the saving gospel message in all the world to every creature. He then stated what sinners who heard the message must do to be saved. Three scriptures record these commands, and when combined together, they tell every creature what to do to be saved. Matthew 28:18-20 shows that all nations must be taught, baptized, and taught all things He commanded. Mark 16:15, 16 commands that the gospel be preached to every creature and that men believe and be baptized in order to be saved. Luke 24:46, 47 says that Christ's suffering and resurrection be preached among all nations and that men must repent in His name.

The great commission is the combination of these last commands of Jesus. They answer what every man must do to be saved: (1) Be taught the gospel of the suffering and rising of Jesus, (2) Believe, (3) Repent, (4) Be baptized, (5) Then be taught all things which Jesus commanded. The promises after baptism are: (1) Becoming the possession of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (the meaning of "into the name of"), (2) Being saved, (3) Having the remission (forgiveness) of sins. If we respect the total and complete authority of Jesus, we will teach, believe, and obey these commandments exactly as they are written.

To show us clearly what to do to be saved, Jesus in Matthew 18:18 authorized His apostles to bind (require) on earth what He had already required in heaven. (This is the exact force of the Greek verb "bind"). As they went forth and preached the saving gospel, we have many revealing examples of what men did to be saved. These "moving picture" examples show the great commission in action. They show what inspired preachers of the gospel required men to do to be saved. When combined together, these examples picture the same requirements as Jesus gave in the great commission.

## WHAT THE APOSTLES BOUND!

<p><b>Acts 2: 3.000 Jews:</b> :36: Christ Preached :36: Sinners Believed :38: Repent, Baptized :41,47: Saved, Added</p>	<p><b>Acts 8: Samaritans:</b> :5: Christ Preached :12:Belkved :12: Baptized</p>	<p><b>Acts 10, 11: Cornelius:</b> Devout, Feared God 11:14: Unsaved With All House, 10:43: Believed Prayed, Fasted, 11:18: Repented Much Alms, Well 10:48: Baptized Reported 10:43: Remission</p>
<p><b>Acts 9, 22, 26: Saul:</b> 22:8: Believed 9:9: Repented 22:16: Baptized (To Wash Away sins)</p>	<p><b>Acts 8: Ethiopian:</b> :32,33,35: Jesus Preached :38: Baptized (Into, Out Of) :39: Rejoiced</p>	<p><b>Things Not Binding In Conversion Examples According To The Great Commission:</b> Acts 2:2: Rushing Wind Sound :3: Tongues Like Fire :4: Filled With H.S.. Spoke With Foreign Languages (:8) 8:6, 13: Signs, Healing, Miracles 8:26: Angel Spoke 26:13,14,16: Christ Seen 22:13: Blinded, Sight Restored 9:13: Hands Laid For Sight Acts 10:44,45: Holy Spirit Fell :46: Tongues Spoken :47: To Show Gentiles To Be Baptized Acts 16:26: Earthquake Acts 19:6: Hands Laid, Propheied, Tongues</p>
<p><b>Acts 16: Jailer:</b> :32: Taught Word :31: Believe :33: Repented :33: Baptized same Hour</p>	<p><b>Acts 18: Corinthians:</b> :8: Heard :8: Believed :8: Baptized</p>	
<p><b>Acts 8: Simon Restored</b> :13: Believed, baptized Mark 16:16: thus saved Acts 8:20-23: Sinned :22: Repent and Pray :24: Pray for me</p>	<p><b>Acts 19: Ephesians :3:</b> Wrong Baptism :4: Taught Right :5: Baptized Right</p>	

What the apostles bound is seen in examples of sinners saved in the book of Acts. Acts 2:36-47 is the first example of sinners saved by the great commission. Christ's death for sins was preached and sinners believed (verse 36). Peter commanded repentance and baptism in Jesus' name for the remission of sins (verse 38). By gladly receiving the word and being baptized, 3,000 were saved and added by the Lord to the church (verses 41, 47). This is exactly what men must do today to be saved.

In Acts 8 two examples of salvation are found, the people of Samaria and the Ethiopian. In Samaria Christ was preached (verse 5), and when men and women believed, they were baptized (verse 12). The Ethiopian heard Jesus preached as God's suffering sacrifice for sins (verses 32, 33, 35). He stopped his chariot and was baptized immediately by immersion, and he came up out of the water rejoicing (verses 38, 39).

Acts chapters 9, 22, and 26 record the salvation of Saul of Tarsus. This honestly convicted and zealously wrong religious man is a noble example for us today. He thought he was right (Acts 26:9), his conscience was clear (Acts 23:1), but he was religiously wrong. His faith (Acts 22:8), repentance (Acts 9:9), and baptism to wash away his sins (Acts 22:16) made Saul a Christian. He serves as the Bible's greatest example of a man who thought with all his being that he was right religiously, but who was wrong and in his sins until he did what Jesus commanded to be saved.