Christ's Plan Of Salvation

Compliments of
Church of Christ
Members

Original booklet compiled and prepared by Robert Farley and Dan Ross.
Updated in 2026 by
church of Christ members,
with permission.

Table of Contents

Introduction 3

Christ Establishes His Church 4

Timeline Leading to Denominationalism 4

God's Inspired Word 8

Sin and Disobedience 9

Obedience and Righteousness 10

God's Plan for Saving Man 12

Hear Unto (Toward) Salvation 14

Faith Unto (Toward) Salvation 16

Repentance Unto (Toward) Salvation 21

Confession Unto (Toward) Salvation 23

Baptism Into Christ 25

Saved By God's Grace Through Christ Jesus His Son 30

Misconceptions Addressed With Scripture 34

Conclusion 37

The Conversions of Acts 39

Introduction

The reason for the majority of religious errors is understanding and applying the scriptures, and the temptation to look for and use scriptures that fit a preconceived idea. But we cannot, in good conscience, choose certain verses and throw away others just to prove a point. Once you read the Word of God, you are obligated to consider all verses, *rightly dividing the word of truth* (2 Tim. 2:15), to determine what God's intentions and will is towards mankind. It is with this attitude that these verses were compiled and this booklet prepared.

(All scriptural references from the KJV
and words of Christ in red)

Christ Establishes His Church

YEAR: **30 AD**
Pentecost, Acts 2:38-47
CHURCH: **First Century New Testament Church**
Ephesians 5:23, Isaiah 2:2-4
FOUNDER: **Jesus the Christ**
Matthew 16:18-25, Romans 16:16
LOCATION: **Jerusalem**
Acts 2:47, Colossians 1:18, Acts 1:3-4

Timeline Leading to Denominationalism

(Not meant as a complete listing)

40-50 AD **Judaizers (Acts 15), Ebionites**
70 AD **Destruction of Jerusalem (Matt. 24)**
90-325 AD **Gnosticism, Marcionism, Montanism, Monarchianism, Manichaeism, Donatism, Arianism, Nestorianism, Monophysitism, Pelagianism, Paulicians, Bogomils**
325 AD **Catholic Denomination/Council of Nicea**

- **325 AD** **Catholic Denomination Began**
- **394 AD** **Latin Mass**
- **593 AD** **Purgatory Doctrine**
- **606 AD** **First Official Pope ("God on Earth")**
- **1000 AD** **Transubstantiation Doctrine**
- **1015 AD** **Celibacy of Priests Mandated**
- **1054 AD** **The "Catholic" Schism**
  (Roman Catholic Church/Greek Orthodox Church)

1175 AD **Waldensians, Cathars**
(France, Persecuted by Catholic Church)
John Wycliffe, Lollards
(Taught Christ was only king,
Persecuted By the Roman Catholic Church)

1192 AD	**Indulgences**
1215 AD	**Auricular Confessions** *("Confession Booth")*
1311 AD	**Sprinkling Replaced Immersion for Baptism**
1415 AD	**Jan Hus and the Hussites** *(Persecuted, Burned at the stake by Catholic Church)*
1457 AD	**Moravian Church** *(Group in Kunwald Bohemia)*
1521 AD	**Anabaptist**
1526 AD	**Lutheran Church** *(Martin Luther in Augsburg, Germany)*
1534 AD	**Church of England: Anglican and Episcopalian**
1536 AD	**Mennonites** *(Menno Simons)*
1536 AD	**Calvinism** *(John Calvin, French, Protestant Reformer)*
1560 AD	**Presbyterian** *(John Knox in Switzerland)*
1609 AD	**Baptist Church** *(John Smith in London, England)*
1650 AD	**Quakers** *(George Fox in England)*
1684 AD	**Congregational Church** *(Group in Massachusetts)*
1690 AD	**Amish** *(Jacob Amman in Switzerland)*
1739 AD	**Methodism** *(John Wesley in London England)*
1765 AD	**Primitive Baptist** *(Group in North Carolina)*
1780 AD	**Freewill Baptist** *(Benjamin Randall in New Durham, North Carolina)*
1803 AD	**Evangelical Church** *(Jacob Albright in Pennsylvania)*
1810 AD	**Cumberland Presbyterian** *(Group in Dickson County, Tennessee)*
1820-1860 AD	**Adventists/7th Day Adventist** *(William Miller in Massachusetts)*
1820 AD	**Restoration Movement** *(Barton Stone, Thomas and Alexander Campbell attempt to restore New Testament Christianity in U.S.)*
1827 AD	**Plymouth Brethren** *(Group in Ireland)*
1830 AD	**Disciples of Christ** *(United States)*
1830 AD	**Mormon** *(Joseph Smith in Seneca, New York)*
1834 AD	**Evangelical and Reformed** *(Group in Cleveland, Ohio)*
1852 AD	**Mormon Reorganized** *(Joseph Smith II in Wisconsin)*
1845 AD	**Southern Baptist Convention** *(William B. Johnson in Augusta, Georgia)*
1846 AD	**Seventh-Day Adventism** *(Ellen G. White in Massachusetts)*
1859 AD	**Christian Church** *(Group in Midway, Kentucky)*
1865 AD	**Salvation Army** *(William Booth in London, England)*
1870 AD	**Pope Declared Infallible**
1874 AD	**Jehovah's Witnesses** *(Charles T. Russell in Pennsylvania)*

1879 AD	**Christian Science** *(Mary Baker Eddy in Boston, Massachusetts)*
1880 AD	**Holiness Movement** *(Sarah W. Lankford in New York City, NY)*
1880 AD	**Church of God** *(D.S. Warner in Anderson, Indiana)*
1886 AD	**Church of God** *(Group in Monroe County, Tennessee)*
1889 AD	**Church of Living God** *(William Christian in Wrightsville, Arkansas)*
1895 AD	**Nazarene Church** *(P.E. Bresee in Los Angeles, California)*
1897 AD	**Pilgrim Holiness Church** *(Group in Cincinnati, Ohio)*
1898 AD	**Pentecostal Holiness** *(Group in Anderson, South Carolina)*
1900 AD	**Independent Witness** *(C.B. Jernigan in Van Alstyne, Texas)*
1906 AD	**Christian Church** *(Group in Midway, Kentucky)*
1907 AD	**Northern Baptist Convention** *(Charles E. Hughes in Washington, D.C.)*
1910 AD	**International Missionary Conference** *(Group in Edinburgh, Scotland)*
1914 AD	**Assembly of God** *(Group in Hot Springs, Arkansas)*
1914 AD	**Church of God Holiness** *(K.H. Burrus in Atlanta, Georgia)*
1917 AD	**Foursquare Gospel** *(Almee S. McPherson in Los Angeles, California)*
1920 AD	**Community Churches**
1935 AD	**Full Gospel Church** *(R.H. Askew in Goldsboro, North Carolina)*
1950 AD	**Megachurch Movement** *(Groups, entertainment, self-empowerment)*
1968 AD	**United Methodist** *(Group from teachings of John Wesley)*

Today, it is estimated that approximately 37 million churches of various denominations and independent congregations exist worldwide, with an estimated 10,000 different distinct religions. Over half of the world's population adheres to four major religions: Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism. Over 45,000 denominations worldwide claim a Christian foundation. With the creation of such a vast number of well-intentioned, man-made religious entities, it would seem daunting and nearly impossible to find the church Christ died for and established in 30 AD However, there is good news for those seeking God's will! "*If we do what first century followers of Christ did, we will be what they were- Christians, only.*" (Unknown).

God's Inspired Word

Before a discussion of salvation can begin, there are several questions you must ask yourself:

1. Do you believe that God is the only divine power in existence?
2. Do you believe that the Bible is the inspired word of God?

If you do not believe either of the above statements, the words that follow in this booklet are not likely to be of any benefit to you. We do not intend with this booklet to offer arguments for or against these two questions. This booklet is designed for those who already believe the above statements are true and want to know more.

Since you believe that the Bible is the inspired word of God, please read the following selection:

> (2 Timothy 3: 16-17) "[16]*All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:* [17]*That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works*."

It is only then through a study of the scriptures that we will be able to move towards that perfection and have all knowledge necessary for **salvation**.

Sin and Disobedience

Let us use the scriptures as our guide. They will tell us things that we may not know or understand. Scriptures will inform us of events past, present, and future that affect our lives. An important past event is that Adam, the first man, because of his disobedience to God, brought sin to all of mankind.

> (Romans 5:14) "*Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of Him that was to come.*"

> (Romans 5:18-19) "[18]*Therefore, as by the offense of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came to all men unto justification of life.* [19]*For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.*"

> (Romans 3:23) "*for all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.*"

In Romans 6:23, the apostle Paul explains, "[23] *For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*" Adam **disobeyed** many years ago and we continue to **disobey** today. If we choose **disobedience** as a way of life, then we have nothing to look forward to but death, because the reward of sin is death.

Obedience and Righteousness

If, on the other hand, we choose to **obey** God, then we are pleasing to Him and promised eternal life. We would be doomed if it were not for our loving **God's grace** that gives us **a way** to avoid eternal condemnation through His beloved son, Jesus Christ. What is this way?

> (Ephesians 2:7-14) "[7]*That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his* ***grace*** *in his kindness toward us* ***through Christ Jesus.*** [8]*For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:* [9]*Not of works, lest any man should boast.* [10]*For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto* ***good works,*** *which God hath* ***before ordained*** *that we should* ***walk in them.***"

> (Romans 10:1-4) "[1]*Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they might be saved.* [2]*For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge.* [3]*For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.* [4]***For <u>Christ</u> is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that believeth.***"

It is God's desire that all mankind be saved. However, many wish to be saved on their own terms. They want to be godly, but they do not look to the scriptures for guidance. Instead, they set their own standards and try to be righteous in their own sight. They have a zeal, but not according to knowledge. They have not submitted themselves to **God's righteousness**, and that is the only righteousness that will save us.

God's Plan for Saving Man

God has a master plan governing the establishment of His righteousness. Part of this plan is that he appointed one to oversee the operation of it. The appointment was given to His son, Jesus Christ, through whom eternal life is to be given. God's grace is the plan of salvation, through Jesus' death in our place. We can obtain righteousness to be saved by obedience to His son's will.

This appointment is given to us in scripture:

> (Matthew 17:5) *"While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, 'This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear ye him!'"*

(1 Timothy 2:5) "*For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.*"

> (Acts 4:12) "*Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*"

Christ explained the relationship between himself and his Father:

(John 5:24) "*Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that heareth my word and believes on Him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation, but is passed from death unto life.*"

(John 14:6) "*Jesus saith unto him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the Life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.'*"

The apostle John sums up everything that has been discussed thus far:

(John 3:16-18) "[16]*For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.* [17]*For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.* [18]*He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*"

Hear Unto (Toward) Salvation

We just read that no man (or woman) can go to the Father except through Christ. Therefore, we must then listen to Christ for directions and hear his words as recorded for us in scripture.

> (John 3:5-7) "[5]*Jesus answered, 'Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into kingdom of God.* [6]*That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.* [7]*Marvel not that I said to you, 'Ye must be born again.'*"

The obvious question then is, **What is the process of 'being born again'?** Let us look to the scriptures for guidance.

> (Romans 10:13-15) "[13]*For whosoever shall* ***call upon the name of the LORD shall be saved****.* [14]*How then shall they call on him in whom they have not* ***believed****? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not* ***heard****? And how shall they hear without a preacher?* [15]*And how shall they preach, except they be sent? As it is written: 'How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the* ***gospel*** *of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!'*"

> (Romans 10:17) "*So then* ***faith*** *cometh by* ***hearing****, and* ***hearing by the word of God****.*"

There is no mystery about it. Faith comes only by hearing or reading the inspired word of God and the account of Christ and his teachings as revealed to us in the New Testament scriptures.

> (John 20:31) "*But these are written, that ye might* ***believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,*** *and that believing ye might have life through his name.*"

Faith Unto (Toward) Salvation

Our faith is a firm persuasion that what we have read or been told from scripture is true. In what then do we place our faith?

1. We **do not** place our faith in the old law.

   (Acts 4:12) "*Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*"

2. We **do not** place our faith in the works of the old law.

   (Galatians 2:16) "*Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the **faith** of Jesus Christ, even we have **believed** in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh shall be justified.*"

3. We **do not** place our faith in man.

   (Acts 4:12) "*Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*"

4. We **do** place our faith in God.

   (Mark 11:22) "*And Jesus answering saith unto them, 'Have faith in God.'*"

5. We **<u>do</u>** place our **<u>faith in Christ</u>**.

> (Acts 20:21) "*Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, **repentance toward** God, and **faith toward** our Lord Jesus Christ.*"
>
> (Hebrews 11:6) "*But without **faith** it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must **believe** that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*"

Our faith in God is the steadfast decision in our heart and mind that God exists and that he rewards all people who **obey** him. Whatever he commands us to do, whether through his son or the apostles, we do because our faith in God assures us these actions are right. Anything, then, we do without this faith (authorized of God) is sinful.

> (Romans 14:23) "*And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith; for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.*"

Our study so far guides us to know what faith is, and that we need it to please God. But **faith alone is not enough to save us**. Why? James gives readers several good reasons:

> (James 2:19-20) "[19]*Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble!* [20]*But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?*"

The devils believed in Christ's existence and power. They were afraid of him and of his power over them.

> (Matthew 8:29) "*And behold, they cried out, saying, 'What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? Art thou come hither to torment us before the time?'*"
>
> (Mark 1:24) "*Saying, 'Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? Art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou are—the Holy One of God!'*"

If faith had been enough to save, the devils would have received salvation. However, their belief did not lead them to **obedience**. The devils were unwilling and refused to submit to the **will of Christ**. James continues and assures us that faith without works is dead. When something is dead, it is useless and of no benefit to anyone. Faith is the same way.

> (James 2:26) "*For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.*"
>
> (James 2:17) "*Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.*"

Our **faith should lead us to do works of righteousness**, which is **obedience to God's instructions** presented to us through the New Testament. **It is <u>not</u> to be confused with the physical ritualistic works advised under the old covenant law of Moses (a covenant which could only roll sins forward, not permanently remove sin) or works of personal merit (attempting to earn salvation by our own means).**

An **obedient faith** is required of all who seek salvation in Christ. Christ asks:

> (Luke 6:46) "*And why call ye me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not the things which I say?*"

Christ explains this principle again in Matthew.

> (Matthew 7:21) "*Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he who **doeth the will** of my Father which is in heaven.*"

Hearing the word and faith, however, are still not enough to save us; they are parts of the whole of God's plan (requirements) of salvation. Our faith continues our journey toward salvation and bolsters our spirit in times of doubt, as Paul communicated to the Ephesians.

> (Ephesians 6:16) "*Above all, taking the shield of faith wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.*"

We must do the same today to keep from being misled with false doctrine.

> (Ephesians 4:14) "*That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning, craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive.*"

> (2 Peter 3:17) "*Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness.*"

(2 Peter 2:1-3) "[1]*But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.* [2]*And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.* [3]*And through covetousness shall they with feign words make merchandise of you; whose judgement now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.*"

(Galatians 1:8-9) "[8]*But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.* [9]*As we have said before, so say I say now again. If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.*"

Up until the time of Christ, people that were not Jews did not know God. They were ignorant (without knowledge) of God's requirements. When Christ, by God's authority revealed the Gospel to the world, there was no longer reason for ignorance. Paul communicates this to the men of Athens.

(Acts 17:30) "*And the times of this ignorance God overlooked; but now commandeth <u>all</u> men everywhere to repent.*"

Repentance Unto (Toward) Salvation

What is repentance? To understand this principle, we must lay a foundation. The mind controls all thoughts and decisions which lead to actions. There is nothing man does that is not preceded by a thought to do it. So, repentance must also begin in the mind. Repentance is a change in the original thought, which leads to change in the action. What causes repentance? Let us look at Paul's instructions to the Corinthians.

> (2 Corinthians 7:10-12) "[10]***For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation*** *not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.* [11]*For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, what clearing of yourselves, yea, what indignation, yea, what fear, yea, what vehement desire, yea, what zeal, yea, what revenge! In all things, ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter.* [12]*Wherefore, though I wrote unto you, I did it not for his cause that had done the wrong, nor for his cause that suffered wrong, but that our care for you in the sight of God might appear unto you.*"

We understand by studying the scriptures and thoroughly hearing God's will that we are disobedient.

> (Romans 3:23) "*for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*"

We are sorry for the way we have lived in the past and decide to live our future life pleasing to God. This is God's will, for us to live our life pleasing to Him.

> (Luke 13:5) "*I tell you, no; but unless you **repent** you will all likewise perish.*"

Repentance causes us to give up our own thoughts and ways and look to God for his guidance. Hearing the gospel, having faith, and repenting cannot save us, but does lead us **toward** salvation in Christ. If you stop here, you may become a better person, but you will not have **fully submitted** yourself to God's will.

Confession Unto (Toward) Salvation

When we were without God, our actions and words showed we were the servants of sin. When we **heard the word** of God, and **faith grew** within us, causing us to **repent of our past ways**, we find ourselves serving a new lord and master. As we serve our new master, we cannot conceal our belief and be pleasing to God.

> (Romans 10:11) "*For the Scripture saith, 'Whoever **believes on Him** shall not be ashamed.'*"

Since we are not ashamed of our new master, we are willing to publicly **declare** our **belief** that **Jesus Christ is God's son** and **appointed agent** through whom eternal life is to be given.

> (Acts 4:12) "*Neither is there **salvation** in any other, for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*"

The apostle Paul instructs the Romans of this.

> (Romans 10:9-10) "[9]*That if thou **confess** with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt **believe** in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be **saved**.* [10]*For with the **heart** man **believeth <u>unto</u> righteousness**; and with the **mouth confession** is **made <u>unto salvation</u>**.*"

"Unto salvation" means **toward** salvation. So, it is clear that a confession of our belief is not merely a public show of our faith, but a mandatory step on our way **toward salvation.** Christ, himself, explains this in Matthew.

> (Matthew 10:32-33) "[32]*Whosoever therefore shall* ***confess*** *me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.* [33]*But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.*"

Now, by turning to the book of Acts, you may read an account of a man who made just such a confession.

> (Acts 8:37) "*And Philip said, 'If you believest with all thine heart, thou mayest.' And he answered and said, '****I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God****.'*"

If you read the entire account, you will plainly see that confession alone did not save him. There yet remains one last requirement before salvation can be claimed. This last step is mentioned many times in the New Testament, but is the one most often ignored. It is probably the most neglected step **into salvation** because it is the least understood.

Baptism Into Christ

This final requirement is baptism. The man mentioned in Acts 8 (above) was baptized and so must all others who are born again. Let us refer back to John.

> (John 3:5) "*Jesus answered, 'Verily, verily, I say unto thee, **Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.**'*"

Water is used by God as an instrument of cleansing or separation from sin (sanctification). A study of the Bible shows how God cleansed the earth from sin and separated Noah and his family from the unrighteous by water (Genesis 8). A continued study shows how Naaman was cleansed or separated from his disease of leprosy by water as directed by the prophet, Elisha (2 Kings 5).

Baptism is the name given to the act of cleansing one from sin and separation from evil things and ways (sanctification). In obedient baptism, God removes our sins, setting us apart from the world and placing us into the kingdom of His dear Son, the church.

Referring to Noah, the apostle Peter says:

> (1 Peter 3:21) "***The like figure whereunto even baptism doeth also now save us*** *(not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.*"

Peter says baptism saves us! Not baptism by itself, but because our new attitude of **faith** towards God is shown by our willingness to completely **obey his will**, which can only occur after a person **hears** the Gospel of Jesus Christ, **believes** (faith) in what is heard, **repents** (turns away from sinful ways), and **confesses** (that Jesus Christ is the Son of God). **Baptism** shows the final separation from the world resulting in **forgiveness of our past sins.**

> (Acts 2:37-38) "[37]*Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?* [38]*Then Peter said unto them, 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.* **(Our undeserved gift is forgiveness of sins!)**"
>
> (Acts 10:43) "*To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever* ***believeth*** *in him shall receive* ***remission of sins****.* (sanctified holy)"
>
> (Hebrews 10:10-23) "[10]*By the which will we are* ***sanctified*** *through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.* [11]*And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins:* [12]*But this man, after he had offered* ***one sacrifice for sins for ever****, sat down on the right hand of God;* [13]*From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool.* [14]*For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.* [15]*Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before,* [16]*This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in*

their minds will I write them; [17]***And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.*** [18]*Now where* ***remission*** *of these is, there is no more offering for sin.* [19]*Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,* [20]*By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;* [21]*And having a high priest over the house of God;* [22]*Let us draw near with a true heart in* ***full assurance of faith****, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and* ***our bodies washed with pure water.*** [23]*Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)"*

Do not be deceived, **belief is much more** than just a mere mental acknowledgement that we believe Christ is the son of God. Genuine and sincere belief in Christ propels the believer to **obey His commands**; **doing all Christ requires of us in order to obtain salvation**.

By obediently going completely under the water (a watery grave) and coming out of the water, we signify death of our sinful self and rebirth (born again) of our spiritual self. In baptism, we are obediently joining Christ's death, burial, and resurrection, which he did first for mankind, with God's full assurance that He will do the same for us.

The apostle Paul explains this in Romans.

(Romans 6:3-5) "[3]*Know ye not, that so many of us as were* ***<u>baptized into Jesus Christ</u>*** *were* ***<u>baptized into</u>*** *his death?* [4]*Therefore we are* ***<u>buried with him by baptism into death:</u>*** *that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.* [5]***For if we have been planted (united) together in the likeness of His death, we shall also be in the likeness of his resurrection:***"

The second chapter of Acts has recorded for the world to read what a person must do once he realizes his sinful ways. Let us begin by reading the question these sinners asked in Acts.

(Acts 2:37) "*Now when they* ***heard*** *this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and the rest of the apostles, '****Men and brethren, what shall we do****?*' Then Peter said unto them, '***Repent****, and be* ***baptized*** *every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ* ***<u>for</u> the remission of sins****; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.'*"

Notice verse 38 **does not** state, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ because your sins have already been forgiven." It also does not state, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ to be added to an earthly denomination." Absolutely not!

OUR OBEDIENCE TO BAPTISM IS <u>FOR THE REMISSION OF OUR SINS</u> AND <u>WHAT IS REQUIRED OF US TO BE PLACED INTO CHRIST</u>! Remission means forgiveness, sanctified holy by Christ's blood sacrifice. Sins are forgiven so that we are clean, at the point we obediently follow Christ into His death, burial, and resurrection. When we are cleansed in baptism, it is then and **<u>only then</u>** that we are acceptable to God.

> (Acts 22:16) "*And now why are you waiting? Arise and **be baptized, and wash away your sins, <u>calling on the name of the Lord</u>**.*"

(**Please recall the beginning of this study where it was established that man's sin separated us from our God. Sin caused man to be unacceptable to God and destined for death. Forgiveness of our sins allows us to be in God's presence.**)

Saved By God's Grace Through Christ Jesus His Son

We have now come full circle. Remission of sins (forgiveness) makes us clean in God's sight and reconciles us to Him so that now He can look upon us as a new creature (born again) and without spot (sin).

Paul states:

> (2 Corinthians 5:17-21) "[17]*Therefore, if any man be* ***<u>in</u> Christ****, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.* [18]***And all things are of God, who has reconciled us to himself <u>by</u> Jesus Christ, and has given to us the ministry of reconciliation.*** [19]*To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself,* ***not imputing their trespasses unto them****; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.* [20]***Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.*** [21]*For he* ***hath made him to be sin for us who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.***"

Baptism **is not** a work of man. We cannot earn salvation by our own works. However, obedience to the Father's will- the Gospel of Jesus Christ- is required. We do this by **hearing** God's word, **believing** His word, **repentin**g of our sinful ways, **confessing** His Son before men, and **following Christ's example of his death, burial, and resurrection in baptism.**

Baptism is the final required step in God's plan that places us **into** Christ's body- His church- His kingdom. By obedience to God's requirements, including baptism, we are "**calling on the name of the Lord**" petitioning the Father to "**call us out**" (to be set apart) from this sinful world and to sanctify us holy. It is in this final obedient act; we receive forgiveness of our sins. We can then wear his name - Christian- and become part of his spiritual kingdom, the church (the called out) belonging to Christ (church of Christ).

Our obedience is required. However, **Baptism is a work of God.**

> (Colossians 2:11-12) "[11]***In whom*** *also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh,* ***by the circumcision of Christ,*** [12]*buried with Him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him* ***through the faith of the operation of God, who raised him from the dead.***"
>
> (Acts 2:47) "*Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And* ***the Lord added to the church*** *daily such as should be* ***saved.***"

God knows the heart of each of us. Through baptism, God applies Jesus' blood to an obedient, repentant heart—washing away sin, separating the believer from the sinful world, and placing him in the church (called out) belonging to Christ His son. In baptism, the believer has completed God's requirements, "calling on the name of the Lord" by obeying the gospel of Jesus Christ.

(Acts 2:41) "*Then they that **gladly received his word** were **baptized:** and that same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.*"

Baptism is essential in God's plan of salvation and without it we fall short of entering the Kingdom of God. Christ said:

(Mark 16:16) "*He that **believeth** and is **baptized** shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.*"

Recorded in John 3:18 is a further explanation.

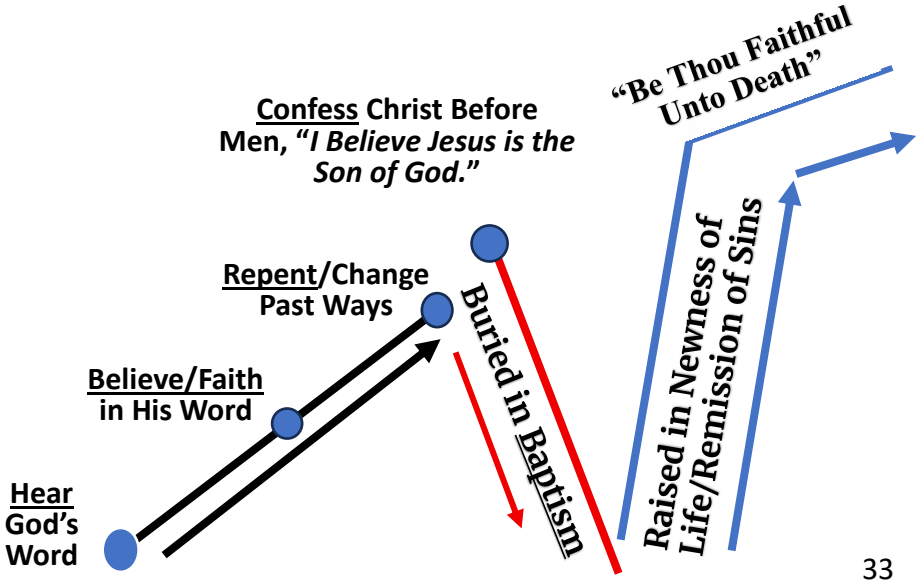
(John 3:18) "*He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*"

Notice that unbelief stops a person from going any further. If you do not believe, there is no use in repentance, confession, and baptism; you remain dead in your sins. If you **believe**, you will desire to please God by **committing yourself to him and obeying all** he requires of us. Just as Noah obeyed God's requirements for the ark, saving eight souls (1 Pet 3:20), and Naaman was cleansed of leprosy by obediently washing in the Jordan River seven times, as he had been directed (2 Kings 5:10)- **obedience is required**. Hebrews 11 (the faith chapter), continues by listing numerous faithful men and women, all who demonstrated an active, obedient, faith willing to commit to the requirements God desired.

Christ our Lord and Savior addressed the eleven disciples before he left earth to join his Father. His last words to them were recorded in Matthew.

> (Matthew 28:18-20) "[18]*And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, 'All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.* [19]*Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:* [20]***Teaching them to observe <u>all</u> things** whatsoever **<u>I have commanded</u> you**: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.' Amen.*"
>
> *(Hebrews 5:8-9)* "[8]*Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;* [9]*And being made perfect,* ***he became the author of eternal salvation unto all the that obey him:***"

Remember Christ's warning that not everyone that calls on him will be saved, but he that **does the will of His Father** in heaven (Matthew 7:21). We have just studied that will. **We either obey it or we are lost for all eternity.**



Misconceptions Addressed With Scripture

As you can see there is no lack of scripture dealing with baptism. Why is it, then, that so few **teach** and **obey** the **true gospel**?

Man's Misconception	Scriptural Truth
"I know I'm right with God. I feel it in my heart."	"***The heart is deceitful***." (Jeremiah 17:9) "*Faith without works* [obedience to God's righteous requirements] ***is dead.***" (James 2:26) If 'faith only' saves, then the devils will be saved. ". . . ***the devils also believe***" (James 2:19)
"Baptism does not save us. It is not required."	". . . ***baptism doth also now save us*** . ." (1 Pet 3:21)
"Rejecting baptism is not a rejection of God."	"*But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the counsel of God against themselves, being* ***not baptized of Him.***" (Luke 7:30)
"I don't have to be immersed, sprinkled is fine."	"***buried with him in baptism*** . . ." (Colossians 2:12) "*And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway* ***out of the water*** . . ." (Matthew 3:16) "*And when they were come* ***up out of the water*** . . ." (Acts 8:39)
"All baptisms are the same." (Infant, denominational, to join the church of your choice, etc.)	"*One Lord, one faith,* ***one baptism***." (Ephesians 4:5) "*Then Peter said unto them,* ***Repent,*** *and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, . . .*" (Acts 2:38-39)

	Infants are sinless and developmentally incapable of repenting of something they do not understand.
"I can just say the sinner's prayer."	A sinner's prayer does not exist in scripture. "***Calling on the name of the Lord***" is obedience to all Christ requires (**hearing** His word, **believing** His work, **repenting** of past, **confessing** Christ before man, and being buried in obedient **baptism for the remission of sins**). "***For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*** 14*How then shall they call on him in whom they have not* ***believed****? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not* ***heard****?"* (Romans 10:13,14) *"And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins,* ***calling on the name of the Lord****."* (Acts 22:16) *"But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have* ***obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you."*** (Romans 6:17)
"I'm a good person."	8*For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:* 9*Not of works, lest any man should boast. (*Ephesians 2:8-9*)*

Christ's parting words give us direction for our Christian walk. (Matthew 28:18-20) As Christians, we are to teach others and baptize them when they become subjects for baptism. Then we are to teach new converts all things which have been commanded by Christ's and the apostles which were inspired by God and recorded in the New Testament.

Denominations will often not acknowledge repentance, confession, or baptism as essential elements for salvation.

(Matthew 7:21-23) "[21]*Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that* ***doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven****.* [22]*Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?* [23]*And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*"

Are we above God's ways? Are we afraid of losing donations, contributions, or attendance? Do we fear ridicule from others? The whys may be unknown or perhaps go back several hundred years into denominational history. No matter the cause, it is imperative that we teach the whole gospel of Jesus Christ to the lost.

(Matthew 15:14) "*Christ said that if the blind lead the blind (without knowledge), they will both fall into the ditch.*"

(Galatians 1:8-9) "[8]B*ut though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.* [9]*As we said before, so say I now again, if any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.*"

Conclusion

Dear Friend,

Are you in Christ? Have you obeyed the Gospel of Jesus Christ and been buried with Him in baptism? If you have not, please seriously consider your soul's condition and "call on the name of the Lord" by obeying all He asks in order to be forgiven of your sins and added to his church - the church Christ died for. Please do not delay this decision. You can become a Christian 'called out' of this world by Christ in baptism and belong to Him!

If we can help you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us! Your soul's salvation is extremely important to us!

Sincerely In Christian Love,
Members of the body of Christ

For additional information,
to establish or locate a congregation near you,
for questions, correspondence, or
to be added to the Christian Courier mailing list,
please contact:

The Christian Courier
83985 S. 4737 Rd.
Stilwell, OK 74960

Email:
ChristianCourier1Cup@gmail.com

Web:
https://1CupHistory.Church/ContactUs.asp

YouTube:
https://www.youtube.com/@1CupHistory

The Conversions of Acts

Person	Preach/Hear	Believed	Repented	Confessed	Baptized	Saved
Jesus Taught	Mark 16:15	Mark 16:16 John 8:24	Luke 13:3	Luke 12:8,9	Mark 16:16	Mark 16:16
Jews- Pentecost Acts 2:14-47	Acts 2:14,22, 29,40	Acts 2:37	Acts 2:38	Acts 41 "gladly received"	Acts 2:38,41	Acts 2:38,47
Samaritans Acts 8:5-13	Acts 8:5-6,22	Acts 8:6,12-13	Acts 8:6 "gave heed"	Acts 8:6 "gave heed"	Acts 8:12-13	Acts 8:8 "great joy"
Simon Acts 8:5-13	Acts 8:5-6,12	Acts 8:13	Acts 8:13 Understood	Acts 8:13 Understood	Acts 8:13	Acts 8:13 Understood
Ephesus 12 Acts 19:1-7	Acts 19:4,5	Acts 19:4,5	Acts 19:4,5 Understood	Acts 19:4,5 Understood	Acts 19:5	Acts 19:4,5,6,7 Understood
Ethiopian Eunuch Acts 8:26-39	Acts 8:35	Acts 8:36-37	Acts 8:26-39 Understood	Acts 8:37	Acts 8:38,39	Acts 8:39 "rejoicing"
Saul/Paul Acts 9:1-31 Acts 22:6-16 Acts 26:12-20	Acts 9:6 Acts 22:10-16	Acts 9:4,5,6	Acts 9:6	Acts 9:18 Understood	Acts 9:18 Acts 22:16	Acts 9:20 Understood
Cornelius Acts 10:1-48	Acts 10:33 Acts 11:14	Acts 10:43	Acts 10 Acts 11:18	Acts 10 Acts 11 Understood	Acts 10:47,48	Acts 10:43 Acts 10:47,48 Understood
Lydia Acts 16:13-15	Acts 16:13,14	Acts 16:14	Acts 14 "heart the Lord opened"	Acts 14 "attended to"	Acts 16:15	Acts 16:15 "judge me to be faithful"
Jailer Acts 16:25-34	Acts 16:32	Acts 16:31,34	Acts 16:33	Acts 16:31,32 "Spoke the word of the Lord"	Acts 16:33	Acts 16:34
Corinthians Acts 18:1-8	Acts 18:4,8,11	Acts 18:8	Acts 18:8 Understood	Acts 18:8 Understood	Acts 18:8	Acts 18:8 Understood
What is taught in scripture?	John 6:44,45 Romans 10:17 Galatians 1:6-9	Hebrews 5:8-9 Hebrews 11:6 John 3:16 John 8:24	Luke 13:3,5 Acts 2:38 Acts 17:30,31 2 Peter 3:9	Romans 10:9,10 Matt. 10:32,33	Gal. 3:26,27 Romans 6:3-5 1 Peter 3:21	Mark 16:16 2 Timothy 2:10 Romans 8:1

If you do what they did, you will be what they were:
A CHRISTIAN! (Acts 11:26)