

What Must I Do To Become

UNSAVED?

To Lose My Salvation I Must Believe Jesus Was Confused

Jesus Said,

John 5:24

"He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, (1) hath everlasting life, and (2) shall not come into condemnation."

Jesus Said,

John 10:27-29

"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And (1) I give unto them eternal life; and (2) they shall never perish, (3) neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and (4) no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand."

Jesus Said,

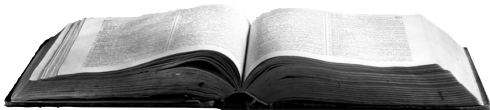
John 6:37,39,40

"All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me (1) I will in no wise cast out. And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me (2) I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day. And this is the will of him that sent me, (3) that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and (4) I will raise him up at the last day."

To Lose My Salvation I Must Believe John Was Confused

First John 5:13

"These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; (1) that ye may know that (2) ye have eternal life."



To Lose My Salvation I Must Believe Paul Was Confused

Ephesians 1:13

"In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise."

To Lose My Salvation I Must Believe The Bible Is Not Inspired

Second Timothy 3:16

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." Since the Word of God is inspired by God it can never contradict itself.

Didn't Jesus Say I Must Be Righteous Enough To Enter Heaven?

- **Matthew 5:20**, "For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven."

If this verse is referring to going to Heaven, what will we do with what Paul said?

- **Titus 3:5**, "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us."

Do we have a contradiction?

If we do we must conclude the Bible was not inspired. We also have a problem because Isaiah 64:6 says, "All our righteousnesses are as filthy rags."



Context - Context - Context

Jesus began His discourse with His disciples in Matthew 5:1 and ended it in Matthew 8:1.

Matthew 5:1, "And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him."

Matthew 8:1, "When he was come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed him."

In order to determine the context of this portion of Scripture we must carefully study everything that Christ said to His disciples on the mountain.

The Kingdom of Heaven In This Portion of Scripture Has Nothing To Do With Going To Heaven



The word "kingdom" occurs fifty-six times in the Book of Matthew. The verses below are obviously referring to the kingdom that was promised to Israel.

Matthew 3:2 John the Baptist said, "the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Matthew 4:17 we read, "Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Jesus mentioned the word "kingdom" nine times during His discourse on the mountain.

Consider the following example;

Matthew 5:19, "Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven."

This is obviously not referring to people being called "least" or "great" throughout all eternity in Heaven.

Didn't Jesus Say Only Those Who Do The Will of The Father Will Enter Heaven?

Jesus said,

• **Matthew 7:21**, "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."

Comparing Scripture with Scripture, we can learn what the will of the Father is.

The phrase "the will of God" occurs twenty-three times in the New Testament. We must also determine what the "kingdom of God" refers to here. Is it heaven or is it Israel's literal kingdom? A careful study will reveal in either case the will of God demands repentance.

Second Peter 3:9

"The Lord is... not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

Luke 13:5

I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

Acts 17:30

"God...commandeth all men every where to repent."

The will of the Father in Heaven is that "all men every where...repent."

Didn't Jesus Say We Need To Endure To The End To Be Saved?

Jesus said,

Matthew 24:13, "But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved."



This portion of Scripture is talking about the tribulation period and has nothing to do with being saved so as to go to Heaven

The Scriptures below are but a few that have to do with Israel being saved from her enemies.

Numbers 10:9, "saved from your enemies."

Second Samuel 19:9, "saved us out of the hand of our enemies."

Second Samuel 22:4, "... so shall I be saved from mine enemies."

Nehemiah 9:27, "saved out of the hand of their enemies."

Psalms 18:3, "saved from mine enemies."

Psalms 44:7, "thou hast saved us from our enemies..."

First Samuel 4:3, "save us out of the hand of our enemies."

First Samuel 7:8, "save us out of the hand of the Philistines."

First Chronicles 16:35, "Save us...from the heathen."

Psalms 106:47, "Save us...from among the heathen."



Do We Need To "Overcome" To Be Saved?

Revelation 3:5, "He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels."

In order to understand this portion of Scripture, and all portions of Scripture, we must examine it within the context in which it appears.

Verse 1, "And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead."

First, God did not write seven churches. He wrote seven pastors. All of the comments are directed to the pastor. To the pastor, the Lord said, "thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead." Obviously the word "dead" is used as a metaphor.

Verse 2, "Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God."

The word "watchful" means to wakeup. The same Greek word is translated "wake" in First Thessalonians 5:10.

The pastor was warned to wakeup and "strengthen the things remain, that are ready to die."

Verse 3, "Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee."

The pastor was warned to "remember" and "repent."

Verse 4, "Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy."

The focus changes here from the pastor to the people. The church had "a few names" that had not "defiled their garments." Obviously the word garments is also metaphoric.

Verse 5, "He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels."

This verse refers to the "few" who had not compromised ("defiled their garments"). The Lord referred to them as those that "that overcometh."

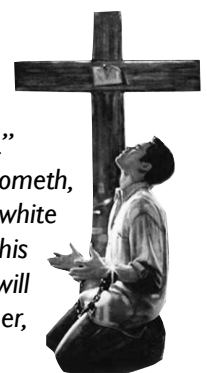
Who Are They That "Overcometh"?

Again, the answerer is found by comparing Scripture with Scripture.

First John 5:5, "Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?"

First John 5:4, "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith."

Revelation 3:5, "He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels."



A Promise Not A Threat

This verse is not suggesting the Christian could lose his salvation, it is a promise that he will not. Jesus said, "I will not." The Lord said, "I will confess his name before my Father."

In the early church when someone became a Christian their families removed them from their family records and even had a funeral for them. Jesus promised He would never do that.

Again, Jesus said,

Revelation 3:5, "He that overcometh, (he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?" First John 5:5) the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels."

Romans 8: 38,39

"For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Didn't Jesus Say We Need To Be Baptized To Be Saved?



•Mark 16:16, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."

Consider the following verses that refer to being saved without mentioning baptism.

John 1:12, "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name."

John 3:15, "That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life."

John 3:16, "Whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

John 3:36, "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life."

John 5:24, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life."

John 6:40, "Every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life."

John 6:47, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life."

Acts 10:43, "Whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins."

Acts 16:30, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved"

Romans 10:13, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

I received Jesus Christ as my personal Saviour on October 7, 1955. I was not baptized until about three months later. Had I died before I was baptized, according to those who say you must be baptized in order to be saved, I would have gone to Hell.

The thief on the cross was not baptized.

Luke 23:43

"And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise."

Concerning Mark 16:16 notice also that it says, "he that believeth not shall be damned." It does not say, he that is not baptized shall be damned.

Consider also,

John 3:18, "He that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."

John 3:36, "He that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."

People are condemned for refusing to believe. They are not condemned for not being baptized. If we are condemned for not being baptized it certainly would be included in such an important subject that deals with our eternal destiny.

“One Baptism”

Ephesians 4:5 plainly tells us that there is “one baptism.” Water baptism is simply an outward symbol of an inward work of God.

Romans 6:3,4, “*Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: 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.*”

Why did Jesus include baptism in Mark 16:16?

Perhaps He was not referring to water baptism. Perhaps He was referring to the “one baptism” as mentioned in Ephesians 4:5.

Another verse that has caused many to believe they must be baptized to be saved is,

Acts 22:16, “*And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.*”

In this portion of Scripture Paul was testifying about the time when he was saved. He was repeating what Ananias said. Again, nothing is mentioned here about water. Perhaps Ananias was also referring to the “one baptism” of Ephesians 4:5.

We know that water does not remit sin; the blood of Christ remits sin.

Revelation 1:5, “*Jesus Christ...loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood.*”

First John 1:7, “*The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*”

Ephesians 1:7, “*In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace.*”

Colossians 1:14, “*In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins.*”

Matthew 26:28, “*For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.*”

If it is necessary to be baptized to be washed from our sins would something of such great importance not be included in these verses?

Paul said

First Corinthians 1:17, “*For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel.*”

Paul never would have said that if baptism was necessary for salvation.

Water baptism is a public testimony that we believe in the death, burial and resurrection of Christ.

Again, Romans 6:3-5, “*Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: 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. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:*”

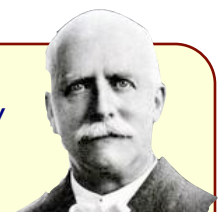
The Importance of Comparing Scripture With Scripture

The importance of comparing Scripture with Scripture cannot be over-emphasized. The only way to know if we have the correct interpretation of a particular Scripture is to compare Scripture with Scripture.

The Importance of Context

Below is an example of how a tremendous blessing can be missed when we do not interpret a Scripture within its context.

“*Ninety-nine Christians in every hundred are merely playing at Bible study; and therefore ninety-nine Christians in every hundred are merely weaklings when they might be giants.*”



- R.A. Torrey

First Corinthians 2:9, “*But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.*”

If we interpret this verse without considering the context we might conclude that Paul was talking about Heaven. Let us look at the context.

Verse 10, “*But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.*”

This verse is not talking about blessing that will be ours in Heaven, it is talking about blessings that are available to Christians right now. Verses 11-14 go on to explain the difference between the unsaved and the Christian.

Verses 11-16, “*But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. 13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. 14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. 15 But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. 16 For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.*”

Accurate interpretation is always dependent on accurate observation of the context. Never interpret a single verse in a "vacuum", but always take time to examine the context!

The context of every verse is always important. Cults can only exist when those who promote their position take Scriptures out of their context.

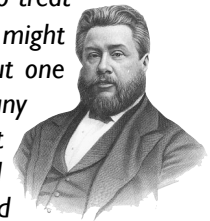
An Explorer or Tourist?

When studying the Bible we need to seek to have the mindset of an explorer searching diligently for priceless, hidden treasures. We must avoid reading the passage with the attitude of a tourist who is on a leisurely holiday.

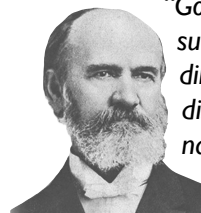
The tourist travels, stopping only to observe the highly noticeable or publicized points of interest. The explorer takes his time searching out all that he can find.

It is wrong to take small portions of Scripture out of its context. It is a violation to the Word of God.

C.H. Spurgeon, “*We are not to treat the verses of the Bible as pigeons might treat a bushel of peas—picking out one here and another there, without any thought of the surroundings of that particular passage! No, this blessed Book was written for men to read right through—and if they are to understand the meaning of it, they must read each sentence in the connection in which it is found.*” (Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit - CHRIST'S YOKE AND BURDEN NO. 2832).



A. B. Simpson Canadian preacher and theologian put it this way,



“*God has hidden every precious thing in such a way that it is a reward to the diligent, a prize to the earnest, but a disappointment to the slothful soul. All nature is arrayed against the lounging and the idler. The nut is hidden in its thorny case; the pearl is buried beneath the ocean waves; the gold is imprisoned in the rocky bosom of the mountains; the gem is found only after you crush the rock which encloses it; the very soil gives its harvest as a reward to the laboring farmer. So truth and God must be earnestly sought.*”

“I would not have you ignorant...But if any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant.”

(First Corinthians 12:1; 14:38)

“With all readiness of mind...searched the scriptures daily.” (Acts 17:11)