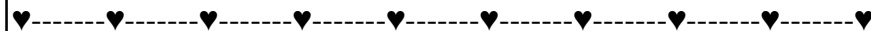


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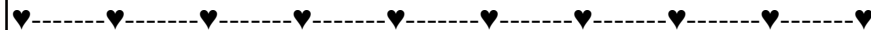
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## **GOD'S UNCHANGING PLAN OF SALVATION**

**Hear** God's Word (Rom. 10:17)

**Believe** the truth (Mark 16:15, 16; Heb. 11:6)

**Repent** of all sins (Luke 13:3, 5)

**Confess** that Jesus is the Christ (Matt. 10:32)

Be **baptized** for the forgiveness of sins (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38)

Live a **faithful** life until death (Rev. 2:10b; 1 Tim. 4:7, 8)

**Conversion accounts** with some detail: Acts 2:37-42, 47; 8:5-13, 30-39; 9:6-18 cp. 22:16; 10:6, 44-48; 16:14, 15, 30-34.

♥ We admonish you: **believe** and **obey** the Lord (Heb. 5:8, 9) ♥



**Who will be saved? Answer: Matt. 7:21**



## **“Holding forth the word of life”**

WOL

(Phil 2:16 cp. John 6:63, 68)

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Volume V

September 2011

Number 1

## **Is Man Saved Before Water Baptism???**

by Perry Sexton

**If** man is saved before water baptism, then Jesus the Savior is wrong for He said: “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned” (Mark 16:16). The Holy Spirit is wrong and so is the Bible, for He brought the Word of God to mankind (2 Timothy 3:16,17; 2 Peter 1:20;21). But friends, the Savior, the Holy Spirit, and the Bible are right. There are many verses and examples showing that man must be baptized in order to be saved from sin and sin's consequences.

Consider some points of the **chart** (enclosed). Although the Old Testament is no longer law for mankind (Ephesians 2:15; Colossians 2:14; Romans 7:6,7; 2 Corinthians 3:6-17, etc.), it is preserved for us “for our learning” (Romans 15:4). There are many things which we may learn from the old Scriptures. We can easily see that man must be obedient to God and that man has never been saved by “faith only” (cp. James 2:24,26).

Our first example in the chart is **Noah**. Please read the record in Genesis 6. God had determined to destroy man because of man's sinful ways. “But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD” (Genesis 6:8). This is so because “Noah was a just man and perfect [upright] in his generations, and Noah walked with God” (v.9). Noah was obedient to God. Please consider these questions: (1.) Was Noah saved by “faith only,” i.e., without obedience to God? (2.) Would Noah have been saved if he had not built the ark? (3.) What means did God use to save Noah and the others who were obedient to Him (see

Hebrews 11:7; 1 Peter 3:20)? (4.) Did that make the ark and water the savior?

Our next example in the chart is the **Israelites**. They were in Egyptian slavery. Please read Exodus 14. In the account “slavery” serves as a type of sin. It symbolizes or typifies sin. In order to be freed from slavery (type of sin) they had to be baptized, i.e., cross the Red Sea (cp. **1 Corinthians 10:1,2**). Before they crossed the Red Sea they were “sore afraid” (Exodus 14:10). After they crossed the sea they rejoiced (Exodus 15:1ff). It is significant to note that in water baptism, the rejoicing came after baptism because this is when people are saved from their sins (Acts 8:39; 16:34 cp. 2:38; 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21; Mark 16:16). If people are saved from sin before baptism, the rejoicing would come before baptism, but in the Bible it never does because people are saved in baptism. Paul is a good example. Before his baptism he was most miserable (read the account, Acts 9:1-20). Even though he believed and trusted Jesus at this point, he knew he was yet lost in his sins (cp. Acts 22:16). Questions: (1.) What if the Israelites had not obeyed and crossed through the sea? (2.) Were they saved before their baptism (crossing the sea)? (3.) Were the Israelites or Paul saved by “faith only”?

In 2 Kings 5 we read of a leper named **Naaman**. Elisha, the true prophet of God, told him what to do: “Go and wash in Jordan seven times, and thy flesh shall come to thee, and thou shalt be clean” (v.10). At first Naaman did not believe God’s Word on this matter, he “thought” it should be done a different way so he “went away in a rage” (v.11,12). Multitudes today are “thinking” up their own way of salvation and twisting Scriptures when they need to be hearing God’s Word on the matter. Finally, Naaman’s servants convinced him to do as the prophet said. At this point he believed (trusted). We know this because he “went” and “dipped” (v.14). Questions: (1.) Was Naaman saved from his leprosy (a type of sin) at the point of “faith only”? (2.) Or was he saved when he obeyed? (3.) What if Naaman never dipped, as God through the prophet instructed him to do, would he have been freed from his leprosy? (4.) What if Naaman had dipped in Abana or Pharpar, would he have been healed?

Concerning salvation, the Bible is right, but many men pervert the truth and teach something totally different (cp. Galatians 1:6-9; 1 John 4:1; 2 Peter 2:1-3). You have a choice, believe men or God.

The **conversion accounts**, of which some are listed in the chart, are very plain and show what people did and still must do in order to be saved from sin. The commands behind these examples are very plain and there will be no excuse for not obeying the gospel (cp. Acts 17:30; 2 Thessalonians 1:8,9). If you would like more information on salvation, please send for the chart on conversion. You can see in the chart (included) that the people were saved from their sins upon obeying the Savior’s Words (cp. Hebrew 5:9; Mark 16:15,16). This plan of salvation will last until the world ends (Matthew 28:18-20).

I would love to hear from you, even if you disagree. If you do disagree, I will give serious consideration to your reasons why, but the Bible will be the final word for me. If you would like to discuss these matters in a private setting, I would be most happy to do so. Let me know. Concerned for your soul, *Perry Sexton*

### Some Verses to Keep in Mind

Heb. 5:9 “And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;”

Matt. 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.”

Gal. 5:6 “For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.”

James 1:21 “Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.”

{V.22} “But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.”

James 2:24 “Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.”

James 2:26 “For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.” ♥