
God's Plan of Salvation

Introduction

- 1. The most important thing that we can do as individuals is to make sure that our soul is saved so that we can live eternally with Jesus Christ and our heavenly Father.**

- 2. There are many misconceptions on what one must do in order to live eternally with Christ.**

- 3. At the conclusion of this lesson we should have a clear understanding of what one MUST do in order to have eternal life with Jesus.**
 - A. This is God's plan for all man.**

Must Be in the Lord's Church to be Saved

1. **It is unfortunate that so many religious people do not think it is important or necessary to be in "the church" in order to be saved.**

A. **I am not talking about some physical structure, a man made building that one must be in.**

1) **I'm talking about being in the church which Christ built and that church is His body.**

2) **We MUST be in His body, the church in order to gain salvation. Please notice the following passages of scripture that verifies this:**

Ephesians 1:22-23 And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things **to the church, which is His body**, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

Colossians 1:24 I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, **for the sake of His body, which is the church**,

Ephesians 5:23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and **He is the Savior of the body**.

Acts 2:47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord **added to the church daily** those who were being saved.

Acts 20:28 Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to **shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood**.

Colossians 1:18 And He is the **head of the body, the church**, who is the beginning, **the firstborn from the dead**, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

How to Gain Entrance Into the Lord's Church

1. **Since we must be in the church, which is the same as being in the Lord's body, we must know what is required to gain entrance.**
 - A. **After all, if in fact Christ is the savior of the body, then we must make sure that we are in His body so we can be saved to be with Jesus in eternity.**

1 Corinthians 12:13 For by one Spirit **we were all baptized into one body**—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.

2. **From this passage of scripture we learn that we must be "baptized" into the one body. In other words, we must be baptized in order to be in "the one body."**
 - A. **But before that happens, one must know about Jesus and why they are being baptized in order to be in His body, the church.**
3. **These next five steps are often referred to as God's plan of salvation. Without any one or more of these steps, it is impossible for one to properly come to Christ and put Him on.**
 - A. **Hearing the word of God.**

Mark 12:29 Jesus answered him, "The first of all the commandments is: **'HEAR, O ISRAEL, THE LORD OUR GOD, THE LORD IS ONE.**

Acts 3:22 For Moses truly said to the fathers, 'THE LORD YOUR GOD WILL RAISE UP FOR YOU A PROPHET LIKE ME FROM YOUR BRETHREN. **HIM YOU SHALL HEAR IN ALL THINGS, WHATEVER HE SAYS TO YOU.**

Romans 10:14 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?...**

B. Believing in Jesus. Fully and completely.

Romans 10:17 So then **faith comes by hearing**, and **hearing by the word of God**.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that **whoever believes in Him** should not perish but have everlasting life.

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God **must believe that He is**, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Romans 10:10 For **with the heart one believes unto righteousness**, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

C. Repenting of sin – turning to God and wanting to serve Him.

Luke 13:3 I tell you, no; but **unless you repent you will all likewise perish**.

Acts 17:30 Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now **commands all men everywhere to repent**,

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but **that all should come to repentance**.

Acts 11:18 When they heard these things they became silent; and they glorified God, saying, "Then God has also granted to the Gentiles **repentance to life**."

D. Confessing Jesus as the Son of God.**Romans 10:9-10**

Matthew 10:32 "Therefore **whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven**. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven."

E. Baptized for the forgiveness of sins.

Matthew 28:19-20 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

Mark 16:16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

1 Peter 3:21 There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

- 1) It is important to know what baptism represents and that when we are baptized that we have now put on Christ and are in His body, the church!**

Romans 6:3-4 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Galatians 3:26-27 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

Living Faithful Until Death

1. **We have seen that one is in Christ's body, the church, when one is baptized into Christ. At this point one is in a saved condition IF they live faithfully for Him all the rest of their life.**

Revelation 2:10 ... **Be faithful until death**, and I will give you the crown of life.

2. **When we put on Christ in baptism we should realize that Christ paid the ultimate price for us. We now should be determined and feel privileged to live for Him.**

- A. **We will strive to grow spiritually day by day to be better servants for Him and good examples for others to follow.**

- B. **Others should be able to see Christ living in us as we imitate Him on a daily basis.**

3. **As we "go on to perfection" we will strive to put on these characteristics of what a Christian is all about.**

2 Peter 1:5-11

- A. **Virtue**
 - B. **Knowledge**
 - C. **Self-Control**
 - D. **Perseverance**
 - E. **Godliness**
 - F. **Brotherly Kindness**
 - G. **Love**

2 Peter 1:3 as His divine power has **given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him** who called us by glory and virtue,

2 Timothy 2:15 **Be diligent to present yourself approved to God**, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

2 Peter 3:18 but **grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.

Galatians 5:22-23 But the **fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control**. Against such there is no law.

Hebrews 12:1 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us **run with endurance the race that is set before us**,

1 Thessalonians 5:14 Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, **be patient with all**.

1 Peter 2:21 For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, **that you should follow His steps**:

John 13:35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, **if you have love for one another**."

Galatians 6:10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, **let us do good to all**, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

1 Corinthians 13:1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, **but have not love**, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.

1 Corinthians 13:13 And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; **but the greatest of these is love**.

Eternity Realized!

- 1. When one keeps God's plan of salvation and diligently lives for Him and practices His righteousness, then Heaven's eternity awaits!**

Revelation 22:14 **Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city**.

