

God's Plan of Salvation: The Truth of the Matter Part 1

(Slide 1)

Reading Acts 8:26-40

In the church of Christ we believe the following:

In order for one to understand the Gospel Plan of Salvation they must first:

1. Hear-Actual sense of Hearing a report (Slide 2)

Romans 10:14-17 (Slide 3)

14 How then are they to call on Him in whom they have not believed? How are they to believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how are they to hear without a preacher? **15** But how are they to preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news of good things!"

16 However, they did not all heed the good news; for Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our report?" **17** So faith *comes* from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

The Beginning of Faith!

2. Believe-Faith in what they have heard (Slide 4)

Mark 16:16 (Slide 5)

16 The one who has believed and has been baptized will be saved; but the one who has not believed will be condemned.

Hebrews 11:6 (Slide 6)

6 And without faith it is impossible to please *Him*, for the one who comes to God must believe that He exists, and *that* He proves to be One who rewards those who seek Him.

3. Confession-in the *Greek-homologeo*-”To say the same thing” to “agree, admit, acknowledge” Jesus is the Christ! (Slide 7)

Romans 10:9-10 (Slide 8)

9 that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; **10** for with the heart *a person* believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.

4. Repent-Repent and Repentance same root word-Repent transliterated-metanoia-means complete change of mind! (Slide 9)

Acts 2:38 (Slide 10)

38 Peter *said* to them, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 3:19 (Slide 11)

19 Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord;

Acts 17:30 (Slide 12)

30 So having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now proclaiming to mankind that all people everywhere are to repent

5. Baptism-***baptizo***-complete immersion (Slide 13)

Acts 2:38 (Slide 14)

38 Peter *said* to them, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 22:16 (Slide15)

16 Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins by calling on His name.’

Mark 16:16 (Slide 16)

16 The one who has believed and has been baptized will be saved; but the one who has not believed will be condemned.

Notice we used several scriptures to reveal what we believe is God’s Plan of Salvation (Slide 17)

Hear

Believe

Confess

Repent

Be Baptized

No one will respond to any subject unless they first hear about it.

Unless a person, after hearing the message believes, they still won’t respond. If they don’t believe, they certainly won’t feel they have anything to confess nor the need to repent. If they don’t believe, nor feel the need to confess and repent, they certainly won’t feel the need to be baptized.

This certainly describes the unbeliever or the atheist, I believe the two are distinctly different, but it doesn't describe the one who believes, yet, does not follow God's Plan of Salvation

We say you need to Hear (on that we agree), Believe (on this we agree), Repent (On this some agree), Confess (on this most agree), and be Baptized that is immersed (on this some agree with some form of baptism-However, not necessarily Biblical Baptism. Many believe Baptism isn't necessary at all and cite Romans 10:9-10). In fact, many claim that what we believe is a False Doctrine!! (Slide 18) Therefore, many people are staking their eternity on that false notion. I contend that if Baptism wasn't necessary for Salvation it would not even be mentioned. I don't think that is enough to convince those who believe in asking Christ into their heart.

1 Peter 3:21

Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal (pledge, commitment) to God for a good conscience—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ

We believe that our Heart must follow the Plan of Salvation as God outlines it beginning in the Book of Acts-While many others believe that asking Jesus into your heart is sufficient for Salvation. These are the ones we are going to address and hope also to encourage the unbeliever to hear as well.

As we embark on this study-give consideration to the following point:

2 Corinthians 11:12-15 (Slide 19)

12 But what I am doing I will also *continue* to do, so that I may eliminate the opportunity from those who want an opportunity to be regarded just as we are in the matter about which they are boasting. (Paul is saying I want to invalidate what they are teaching by

preaching the truth) **13** For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. **14** No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. **15** Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds.

If we consider Satan's thinking on the matter-Which of the above Plans would he try to confuse people with and want man to believe? What we hold as true-Hear, Believe, Confess, Repent, Baptism for salvation or Ask God into my heart for salvation?

Remember this when it comes to Spiritual Matters-Pauls says to the Ephesians

Ephesians 6:12 (Slide 20)

12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.

And we'll leave it at that for this week.

Invitation