



Responding to Jesus

Meeting the covenant terms of salvation

By: R. Chip Denief

What did Jesus teach about salvation?

He stressed the need for full faith & confession of Jesus as Christ:

He *said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"

Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

And Jesus said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.

"I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.

"I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven."

Matthew 16:15-19, NASB'95

Upon Peter's confession, Jesus points out some significant things:

1. This confession is of God, not man.
2. The confession of Jesus as Christ is the "Rock" upon which the Church is established.
3. The Apostles were given the "Keys of Heaven", the teachings needed for anyone to enter the Kingdom of Heaven.
4. The special authority of the Apostles (who were inspired by the Holy Spirit) by saying that their teachings were already bound in heaven. * See also: Matthew 10:32-33

He defined His plan for mankind, and His process for making disciples:

And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying,

"All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,

teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20, NASB'95

The command of Jesus' is vital, since in it He describes how man becomes a disciple. In this "Great Commission", Jesus makes several points:

- All authority in Heaven & on Earth has been given to Him. (vs. 18)
- The Disciples of Christ are to "Go make Disciples". (vs. 19)
- Men are disciples through baptism in the name of the Father, Son & Holy Spirit. (vs. 19)
- Disciples are to observe all the commands & teachings of Jesus. (vs. 20)
- This "formula" for disciple making is eternal... even to the end of the age. (vs. 20)

Jesus stressed that belief & baptism are essential for someone to be saved:

And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.

“He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved;
but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.

Mark 16:15,16, NASB’95

Jesus emphasized the “new birth” that occurs upon our baptism:

Jesus answered and said to him,

“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

Nicodemus *said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old?

He cannot enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born, can he?”

Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of
water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

“That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”

John 3:3-6, NASB’95

What did Jesus teach, through His Apostles, about salvation?

Paul points out that everyone is guilty of sin, and are justified by grace through Christ:

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus;

Romans 3:23,24, NASB’95

Paul continues by emphasizing our lost condition & just penalty under sin:

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 6:23, NASB’95

At Pentecost, Peter (by the Holy Spirit’s inspiration) preached:

Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart,

and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brethren, what shall we do?”

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.

“For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off,
as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself.”

Acts 2:37-39, NASB’95

Here, Peter identifies our **response** to Christ:

1. **Believe** in Jesus as Christ. (Something the crowd obviously did, since they were pierced to the heart, and convinced they had killed the Son of God.)
2. **Repent** (turn away from sin).
3. **Be Baptized** in the name of Jesus Christ.

Peter also identifies the **results** of such a response:

1. Your sins will be **forgiven**.
2. You will **receive** the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Here, Peter further underscores the timelessness of God’s promise in stating that it is for you (the crowd present at Pentecost), your children (the next generation) and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself. (That’s You & !!)

Summary of Christian Baptism:

- Identifies us with Christ. (Romans 6:3)
- Baptism is a response of faith & obedience, allowing God to do His saving work.
- Clothes us with Christ. (Galatians 3:27)
- Enters us into a covenant with God.
- Allows benefit of receiving God's promises of forgiveness, Identification & the Holy Spirit.
- Provides reception of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:38)
- Places us into contact with the blood of Christ. (Ephesians 1:7-8)
- Washes away our sin. (Acts 22:16)
- As an appeal for a good conscience. (Colossians 2:9-12)
- Symbolizes & identifies us as buried with Christ. (Romans 6:3)
- Identifies us with the Resurrection of Christ. (Colossians 3:12)
- Unites us with the Body of Christ... adding us to His Church. (1 Corinthians 12:13)
- Provides a faithful response to God's appeal to mankind. (Acts 2:39)
- Cleanses our conscience. (1 Peter 3:21)
- Baptism is the "Putting on" of Christ... the unique identification of a faithful follower.