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That is the question a hardened Roman gaol-keeper cried out to the apostle Paul. Paul answered: *Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved.* Acts 16:30-31

At another time Paul said *Repent therefore and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out* Acts 3:19

Jesus Himself said *The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.* Mark 1:15

These two things are necessary if you are to be saved, if you are to have a place in the kingdom of God.

- **Repent of your sins**, and
- **Have faith in Jesus Christ as your Saviour.**

Repent means to turn around from rebelling against God and turn to Him.

Having faith is to trust Jesus Christ as your Saviour from sin and its consequences. If you do both these things with a sincere heart, which shows itself in the way you live, you will be saved.

Why do you need to be saved? Though it is not popular to talk about it, the Bible clearly teaches that all people, including you, are facing God's judgement because of sin. Jesus said: *Do not be amazed at this; for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear His voice and come out - those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned.* John 5:28,29. And the Bible tells us that the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23). The justice of God demands that sin is punished.

The fearful truth is that no person has done good, we all sin continually. We read that *all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God* (Romans 3:23), and that *none is righteous, no, not one* (Romans 3:10).

So, the Bible teaches that all people are sinners - but it is also your own experience. As you consider your life and the world around you, you must admit that sin and wickedness abounds, even in your own life. Consider again the words of Jesus: *You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.' But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment.* (Matthew 5:21-22) This is the standard that Christ sets - perfect holiness in order to enter the kingdom of heaven.

If this is the case, then no one can be saved. Since everyone is a sinner, all will be condemned. What hope is there?

But Paul said *Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved*. There is a solution.

Jesus Christ died to pay the penalty for sin. He took the wages of sin - death. When He was crucified on the cross, He endured the wrath of God, and took upon Himself the judgement due to sinners. He lived a life without any sin, yet died an agonizing death as judgement for sin. And He rose again from the grave, demonstrating His power over death and sin.

There is salvation. And it is freely offered by Christ to all. Jesus said *Come to Me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest*. (Matthew 11:28). He offers this salvation.

What must you do to be saved? Repent, and believe the Gospel. **Repent** of your sin, confessing to God that you fall short of His holiness. Turn from that sin to the Lord Jesus Christ. **Believe** that Christ gave His life for you to pay the penalty for your sin. Believe the Scriptures - for it is written:

...whoever believes in Him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him. Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil.

John 3:15-19

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