

## BIBLICAL SALVATION

### T. MICHAEL ECCLESTON

How does an individual become a Christian? How is someone saved? You have either heard all the ways or you are a part of them. Here are just a few: Believe in Jesus Christ and be water baptized; Believe in Jesus Christ and be water baptized in a specific type of church; Believe in Jesus Christ and observe all the sacraments of the church; Believe in Jesus Christ and observe the law; Believe in Jesus Christ and do good works; Believe in Jesus Christ, be water baptized in a specific church, and speak in tongues; and believe in Jesus Christ by faith alone as your personal Savior from sin. Many a religious group will act like the modern day cults and tout their programs, their ministries, their buildings, mention Jesus Christ and salvation, but truly never let the reader in on their real belief system. It has to be grace plus works, grace in accordance with one's faith alone, or just plain works for salvation. Mark this verse down in your heart and Bible:

*“And if by grace, then it is no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be by works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work.” Romans 11:6*

adds to the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ in salvation, then their salvation cannot be of grace, it must be of works. It matters little how close it might come to the true saving Gospel of Christ – it is still false – and unable to save the first soul from an eternal separation from God. Read with me Ephesians 2:8-9, *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.”*

Dress the Gospel of Christ up in an assortment of good works for salvation and the opposite occurs. No salvation at all, but rather, condemnation.

Is that what you want, condemnation? Or do you, as Jesus asked of the impotent man in John 5:6, *“... Wilt thou be made whole?”* Do you rest content with being spiritually impotent? If so, the Gospel means little to you in this life and you'll not respond to God's saving grace through what Jesus

did on the cross and in His resurrection from the dead. But, should there be one of you concerned about where you will spend forever, God makes known to you His wonderful salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ: Jesus died on that cross because of **your sin** (mine too). He actually took to Himself upon His body the entire debt of sin that **you owed** (you weren't even born yet), and shed His precious, sinless blood to satisfy God's demand of justice. In other words, **His death was in substitution for yours**. You should have been the one to die. When He arose three days later from the grave, God was satisfied that the sin debt was forever paid for, and never to be repeated.

The offer of salvation is now presented to all who will **receive Jesus Christ by faith** as their personal Savior from sin:

*“But as many as received him, to them gave he the power to become the sons of God. Even to them that believe on his name:” John 1:12*

*“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. John 5:24*

*“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.” Romans 10:13*

One second after you die you will discover there were not many roads to heaven. Just one, and that is through Jesus Christ. Please, don't rely on your efforts, your baptism, the sacraments, the 10 Commandments, your church membership. None of those things will play any part in your admission to the family of God: only by accepting what Christ did for you, and understanding why He did that, will you spend eternity with Him. The time for being saved, for becoming a true born again Christian is today, right now. Your time is running short for you to respond. Please don't delay one more second.

*“Wilt thou be made whole?”*

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