

19. HOW TO EXPERIENCE CHRIST'S SALVATION

1. Salvation Provided for All.

Through Jesus Christ salvation has been made possible for every human being.

- 1 John 4: 14. "The Father sent the Son to be the Savior of the world."
John 1: 29. Christ is "the Lamb of God, who takes away, the sin of the world." (R.S.V.)
Hebrews 2:9. Christ tasted death "for every man."
Isaiah 53: 6. Jesus bore "the iniquity of us all."
1 John 2: 2. "He is the expiation for our sins, and not for ours only but for the sins of the whole world." (R.S.V.)
John 3: 16. God gave Christ because of His love for the world.

2. Salvation Given Only to Those Who Accept Christ.

Although provision has been made for everybody to be saved and have eternal life, only those who avail themselves of it will receive it.

- John 3: 16. Unless a person believes in Jesus Christ he will perish.
Luke 13: 3. No salvation without repentance.
Acts 10: 43. It is necessary to believe in Christ for remission of sins.
Acts 16: 31. "Believe and thou shall he saved."
John 3:36. There call be no life apart from faith in Christ.
Mark 16:15,16. He who does not believe in Christ will be lost.
Hebrews 2: 3. No escape if we neglect the salvation God offers us.

3. Salvation Something to Be Sought For.

We are earnestly urged to seek for salvation as something that we may miss unless we are determined to secure it.

- Matthew 6: 33. One's first interest should be to seek the kingdom of God.
Matthew 13: 44-46. No price is too great to pay for salvation.
Luke 13: 24. Strive to enter in.
Matthew 11:28-30. Christ's invitation.
Matthew 5: 6. The blessings of the gospel are for those who crave them.

4. The Meaning of Believing in Christ.

Belief in Jesus Christ is more than an intellectual acceptance of His teachings or of certain facts concerning Him. Genuine belief in a person is putting one's reliance upon him, accepting what he promises and acting upon it. Belief in Christ call never be divorced from obedience to Him.

John 1:12. To believe in Christ is to receive Him.

To receive Christ is to accept His claims on one's life, to abandon one's own ways for His ways. It means placing oneself under the control of Christ. Believing is receiving and receiving is obeying.

"The faith that is unto salvation is not a mere intellectual assent to the truth. The only faith that will benefit us is that which embraces Him as a personal Savior: which appropriates His merits to ourselves. Many hold faith as an opinion. Saving faith is a transaction, by which those who receive Christ join themselves in covenant relation with God." – "Desire of Ages," page 347.

5. Steps that Lead to Salvation.

(a) Repentance.

Acts 2: 38. The first step is coming to Christ.

The word repentance is from the Greek word metanoia, which means a change of mind, or attitude. The word does not express the idea of sorrow although it is true that repentance is often accompanied by sorrow of heart for sins committed. However, Peter was not asking for an expression of sorrow but for a complete change of attitude towards Christ. To repent is to change one's attitude, to alter one's mind towards God.

Matthew 3: 1, 2. The message of John the Baptist.