

God's plan of salvation.

There are a variety of ideas and opinions on the subject of how one goes from a state of being lost in sin to a state of salvation from sin. Various men, women and religious organizations have formulated their ideas on how one achieves salvation. It would do no real good to argue with or for any of these ideas. Instead, to answer the question of how one achieves salvation from sins the best course of action is to examine what the Bible, God's inspired word, has to say on the subject. It will be assumed that all will agree that salvation from sins comes only through Jesus who is the Christ; "6Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6), "11This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. 12And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:11 & 12). Having made this assumption we then investigate what the bible says about how one connects with Jesus thus achieving salvation. When we read the Bible we see that there are numerous passages that speak about salvation.

1. **Hear the Gospel:** Romans 10:17 – So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ. (6And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. - Hebrews 11:6) Mark 4:23 - If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear.
2. **Believe the Gospel:** John 8:24 – I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am he you will die in your sins. Mark 16:16 - Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.
3. **Repent of sins:** Luke 13:3 – No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. Acts 17:30 – The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent.
4. **Confess Christ before men:** Matthew 10:32 – So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven. Romans 10:9 & 10 – 9because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.
5. **Be baptized for the forgiveness of your sins:** Acts 2:38 – And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Galatians 3:26 & 27 – For in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. 27For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 1 Peter 3:21 – Baptism, which corresponds to

this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. John 3:5 – Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. Acts 22:16 – And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.

6. **Endure to the end while doing the will of God:** Matthew 10:22 – and you will be hated by all for my name’s sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. Matthew 24:13 – But the one who endures to the end will be saved. Hebrews 3:14 – For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end. Revelation 2:26 – The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations. Philippians 1:27 – Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel. Ephesians 4:1 – I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called. Matthew 7:21 – Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

It would seem, judging by the above mentioned scriptures, that there is either numerous methods by which one achieves salvation from sin, or that there are numerous “steps” that lead to the one way of salvation. Based on Jesus’ words in Matthew 7:13 & 14 “13Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. 14For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few,” the answer can not be that there are numerous ways or paths to salvation. If there were numerous ways to achieve salvation then the way would not be narrow and hard, but easy and wide. Therefore, the above mentioned scriptures must be references to various parts of the plan of salvation. Each of these parts make up the whole of salvation, being equally imperative and not subject to dismissal or whim. Thus, it stands to reason, that if one wants to have salvation from one’s sins that person would do best following the Bible’s prescribed method than any method or idea designed by man or woman.

The one main point that we need to remember is that God wants people to come to salvation; 1 Timothy 2:4, (God) “4who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.” 2 Peter 3:9, “9The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.”

We would love to assist you further in your walk with God and your journey to salvation. Please join us for worship and Bible study or contact us for more information.

All Scripture references cited are taken from the English Standard Version.