

Doctrine of Salvation by Faith Alone

1. Salvation is by believing in Jesus Christ.
 - *John 3:15 That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. 16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. 17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. 18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*
 - *John 3:36 36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.*
 - *John 5:24 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 6:29 Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.*
2. When the question is raised, “Who shall believe in Christ and be saved?”, the Lord Himself supplies the answer.
 - All whom the Father has given to the Son. *John 6:37 All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.*
 - All whom have been ordained to eternal life. *Acts 13:48 And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed.*
3. The Father is pleased to give the gift of eternal life to all who believe in Christ.
 - *John 6:40 And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.*
4. To believe in Christ is likened to a resurrection.
 - *John 11:25 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:*
5. If the question is raised, “How can a person who is spiritually dead believe?”, the divine answer is provided. The ability to believe, the ability to have faith in Christ is also a gift of God.
 - *Ephesians 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

6. Failure to believe in Christ results in spiritual and eternal death. It is not lack of baptism that results in spiritual and eternal death but lack of faith.
 - *John 8:24 I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.*
7. Belief in Christ brings remission of sins. Nothing is said about baptism. This truth has been taught through Biblical history and is testified to by Abraham and all the prophets.
 - Abraham. *Romans 4:3 For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.*
 - All the prophets. *Acts 10:43 To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.*
8. Belief in Christ, apart from any mention of baptism, results in being justified in the eyes of God.
 - *Acts 13:39 And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the Law of Moses.*
 - *Romans 5:1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:*
9. When Paul and Silas were asked what must be done to be saved, they replied in language that did not include baptism.
 - *Acts 16:30 And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? 31 And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.*
10. Prior to the Day of Pentecost and the words of Peter in Acts 2:38, the many sins of a woman were forgiven her on the basis of faith in Christ and apart from the ritual of baptism.
 - *Luke 7:48 And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven. 49 And they that sat at meat with him began to say within themselves, Who is this that forgiveth sins also? 50 And he said to the woman, Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace.*
11. Prior to the Day of Pentecost and the words of Peter in Acts 2:38, the sins of the paralytic were forgiven because of faith apart from water baptism.
 - *Luke 5:18 And, behold, men brought in a bed a man which was taken with a palsy: and they sought means to bring him in, and to lay him before him. 19 And when they could not find by what way they might bring him in because of the multitude, they went upon the housetop, and let him down through the tiling with his couch into the midst before Jesus. 20 And when he saw their faith, he said unto him, Man, thy sins are forgiven thee.*

12. Prior to the Day of Pentecost, and the words of Peter in Acts 2:38, salvation came to the home of Zacchaeus, apart from baptism, because he believed.
- *Luke 19:9 And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house, forasmuch as he also is a son of Abraham.*
13. Prior to the Day of Pentecost, and the words of Peter in Acts 2:38, salvation came to the thief on the cross because he believed.
- *Luke 23:40 But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? 41 And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss. 42 And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. 43 And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.*
14. Prior to the Day of Pentecost, and Acts 2:38, all the saints mentioned in Hebrews 11 were saved, apart from being baptized in order to be saved.
15. On the Day of Pentecost, Peter made it plain that, “*whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*”
- *Acts 2:21 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.*
16. On the Day of Pentecost, Peter did say to individuals who had been “*pricked in their heart*” that they should repent and be baptized “*for the remission of sins*”. However, the word “for” is “*eis*” in the Greek, and can be properly translated “*in*” remission of sins. The Greek term “*eis*” has a range of meanings, all of which have the idea of movement into something.
- Pierced hearts are believing hearts. *Acts 2:37 Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?*
 - Believing hearts should be baptized. *Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.*

Special Note.

The promise of Acts 10:43 is that those who believe in Christ shall receive “*remission of sins*”. We read in Scripture that the person “*that believeth not shall be damned*” (Mark 16:16). We read in Scripture that “*without shedding of blood there is no remission*” of sin (Heb. 9:22). What we do not read in Scripture is that without baptism a person shall be damned, or without baptism there is no remission. Salvation demands a pierced heart, for a pierced heart is a believing heart, and a believing heart desires to obey the gospel fully by authentic repentance, and by performing good works, the first good work being obedience to one’s faith in the act of baptism.

Special Note.

“The gondoliers at Venice, when we were sojourning in that queen of the Adriatic, frequently quarreled with each other, and used such high words and ferocious gestures that we were afraid murder would come of it; yet they never came to blows, it was only their rough way of disputing. Often and often have we heard men upbraiding themselves for their sins, and crying out against the evil which their follies have wrought them, yet these very people have continued in their transgressions, and have even gone from bad to worse. They barked too much at sin to fall to and destroy it. Their enmity to evil was mere feigning; like the sword-play of the stage, which looks like earnest fight, but no wounds are given or received. Let those who play at repentance remember that they who repent in mimicry shall go to hell in reality” (C. H. Spurgeon).

17. After the Day of Pentecost, the Ethiopian was saved before he was baptized.

- *Acts 8:36 And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? 37 And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.*

18. After the Day of Pentecost, salvation came to Cornelius before he was baptized. Because Cornelius and others in his household were saved, they became proper candidates for baptism.

- *Acts 10:47 Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?*

19. The act of baptism is an act of a good work and yet the Scriptures are plain, good works cannot save.

- *Isaiah 64:6 But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.*
- *Romans 4:5 But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.*

20. If the ritual of baptism was required in order to be saved then the act of being baptized would be a legal work. On this point the Scriptures are plain.

- *Galatians 2:16 Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.*

21. The greatest promise of the Abrahamic Covenant is fulfilled in Christ. All who believe in Christ are declared, by faith, to be the spiritual children of Abraham.

- *Galatians 3:25 But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. 26 For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.*

22. God is pleased to save every soul that believes the gospel.

- *1 Corinthians 1:21 For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.*

23. The gospel command of the Lord Jesus Christ is to believe.

- *1 John 3:23 And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment.*

24. If water baptism was essential to salvation, as some teach then Paul was wicked to minimize its importance in his personal ministry. Nor was ritual baptism for salvation part of the Lord's message, or ministry.

- Paul did not emphasize baptism. *1 Corinthians 1:14 I thank God that I baptized none of you, but Crispus and Gaius; 15 Lest any should say that I had baptized in mine own name. 16 And I baptized also the household of Stephanas: besides, I know not whether I baptized any other. 17 For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect. 18 For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.*
- Jesus did not emphasize baptism. *John 4:2 (Though Jesus himself baptized not, but his disciples,)*

25. It is wrong to disregard those verses prior to the Day of Pentecost that teach salvation is by believing in Jesus apart from baptism, and then try to interpret Mark 16:16 and John 3:5 as if they teach baptismal regeneration.