

## What Will Save a Person from His Sins?

Mark 16:16

### Introduction:

A recent conversation about QBs reminded me of some important principles about truth.

Sources should be up to date.

Sources should be relevant to the matter.

Sources should be from a trusted authority on the subject.

Sources should be accurate statements with supporting evidence that is cited correctly.

Sources should be purposeful or serve the right intentions or motives.

If you were to go around asking family, friends, neighbors, or strangers the question on the screen, you would get different answers.

The answer you receive might be completely wrong.

The answer might be partially right, resulting in the answer being wrong because details are out of date, irrelevant, missing, untruthful, inaccurate, unsupported, or misleading.

On the other hand, the answer might be completely right.

The Bible gives the completely right answer to the question for consideration today; what will save a person from his sins?

### I. Jesus will save a person from his sins.

Before Jesus was born, Joseph was told by “an angel of the Lord...in a dream...do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for **He will save** His people from their sins” (Matthew 1:20-25).

Jesus taught two different ways to enter a sheepfold (John 10).

The first way involves climbing over a wall, the method of thieves and robbers.

The second way to enter a sheepfold is through the gate, which is the method of a true shepherd.

Jesus illustrated how He is the Good Shepherd.

He is the entrance to salvation and safety (John 10:7).

Thus, Jesus said in John 10:9, “I am the door; **if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved**, and will go in and out and find pasture.”

Those who enter the sheepfold through the gate/door are given abundant life (v. 10b).

The shepherd lays down his life for theirs (v. 11).

Jesus knows His sheep and His sheep know Him (v. 14).

Jesus established His relationship with the Father, saying in John 10:15-18, that He knows the Father, and the Father knows Him; he is loved by the Father; and the authority to lay his life down and the authority to take it up again was given to Him by His Father.

Jesus was sent by the Father to “save His people from their sins;” Jesus came “to seek and to save that which was lost” (Luke 19:10) which He would do through laying down His life (dying on a cross) and taking it up again (rising from the dead), so He would be the entrance to salvation.

### II. Faith will save a person from his sins.

Jesus told the woman who wet His feet with her tears, wiping them with the hair of her head, kissing his feet, and anointing them with perfume, “**Your faith has saved you; go in peace**” (Luke 7:50).

The woman’s respect and affection for Jesus prompted her actions, thus Jesus said (v. 47), “For this reason I say to you, her sins, which are many, have been forgiven, for she loved much; but he who is forgiven little, loves little. Then He said to her, ‘**Your sins have been forgiven**’” (Luke 7:48).

A negative arrangement from the next chapter also shows that faith saves a person.

While Jesus was telling about distinct types of soils that represent the hearts of people, He said in Luke 8:11 and 12, “The seed is the word of God. Those beside the road are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their heart, so that **they will not believe and be saved.**”

The devil’s effort is to keep you from believing or having faith because of what you hear.

If he can prevent you from believing, he can keep you from being saved.

The Philippian jailer was told “**Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household**” (Acts 16:31).

Then, Paul and Silas “spoke the word of the LORD to him together with all who were in his house” (Acts 16:32).

Verse 33 reports, “he (the Philippian jailer) took them that very hour of the night and washed their wounds, and immediately he was baptized, he and all his household.”

Mark 16:16 reveals, “**He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.**”

Belief plus baptism results in a person being saved.

Faith will lead a person to respond, to act, and to follow through unto salvation.

The intermediate process between faith and baptism will be completed only by someone who believes them to be necessary.

### **III. Repentance will save a person from his sins.**

Peter announced that the prophet Joel wrote concerning the salvation of God when he pinned, “And it shall be that everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved” (Acts 2:21).

Peter stressed that Jesus the Nazarene was crucified by His foes—the Jewish nation and the Roman government (vv. 22-23).

“But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power” (Acts 2:24).

David had predicted this centuries before (vv. 25-28).

David wrote of Jesus’ resurrection and exaltation (vv. 29-36).

Then, the people were “pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, ‘Brethren, what shall we do?’”

Peter commanded two things of them (Acts 2:38).

First, “**repent**” means each of you must turn from your sins and turn to God in your mind and direction of living.

Second, “...and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.”

Peter promised two things to those who obeyed.

First, "...forgiveness of your sins."

Forgiveness is the equivalent of justification—the canceling of all guilt and debt because of sin.

Romans 5:9 says, "having now been **justified**—forgiven of guilt and debt because of sin—**by His blood, we shall be saved** from the wrath of God through Him (Jesus).

Second, "and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

Jesus promised the gift of the Holy Spirit in John 7:37-39.

The result of this gift is the new birth promised in John 3:3-

5.

The Spirit's presence in a person raises them from the spiritually dead to a state of spiritual life (Romans 6:4).

Repentance is a process started by faith that leads a person to salvation.

#### **IV. Confession will save a person from his sins.**

Romans 10:8-15 explain how God's righteousness is as near as one's mouth and heart, through Jesus!

Receiving God's righteousness is conceived in the heart as belief (v. 9b-10a).

Receiving God's righteousness is confirmed by the mouth as a confession (9a and 10b).

Whoever **confesses with their mouth Jesus as Lord and believes in their heart that God raised Him from the dead will be saved** (v. 9).

God's righteousness is available to Jews and Gentiles (vv. 11 and 12) and is given to "whoever will call on the name of the LORD" (v. 13).

Romans 10:14 and 15 establish that a person must hear and believe to "call on the name of the LORD."

#### **V. Baptism will save a person from his sins.**

As Paul reviewed his conversion in Acts 22, he said that he was near Damascus when a blinding light from heaven suddenly surrounded him.

A voice was heard, saying, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?"

Then the voice identified its origin as Jesus the Nazarene.

Jesus gave Saul the instruction, "Get up and go into Damascus, and there you will be told of all that has been appointed for you to do" (Acts 22:10).

After being led by the hand into Damascus, Ananias, a godly believer, instructed Saul concerning the matter in Acts 22:13-16.

Baptism is connected to "washing away your sins" and "calling on His name."

Baptism is the event where sins are washed away.

Baptism is the act of calling on the name of the Lord.

A person who has heard the name of the Lord (Romans 10:14), believes God raised Jesus from the dead (Romans 10:9), will thus be baptized "calling on His name"—the name of Jesus.

**Baptism saves** because it is making "an appeal to God for a good conscience—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 3:21).

**"He is able also to save** forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them" (Hebrews 7:25).

Thus, Jesus is the way just as He said, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me” (John 14:6).

## **VI. God’s grace will save a person from his sins.**

Ephesians 2 explains how God’s grace will save a person.

Verses 1-3 set forth that a lost person is dead in sin, influenced by Satan, controlled by lust, and under God’s wrath.

Verses 11 and 12 present that a lost person is without God, separated from Christ, and without hope.

But, God by His grace loved us (v. 4), set us free from sin and made us alive to Christ (v. 5), and He lifted us up with Christ Jesus (v. 6).

God saved us so that He might display us as trophies of His grace (v. 7).

God saved us through His gift of grace (v. 8 “**For by grace you have been saved**”—God’s part), through our faith in Him (vv. 8 and 9 “through faith”), and by the blood of Christ Jesus which draws us near to God (v. 13).

## **VII. Reconciliation will save a person from his sins.**

Through the death of Jesus a person is reconciled—restored or reunited in a favorable or friendly relation with God.

Romans 5:10 and 11 read, “For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, **having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.** And not only this, but we also exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.”

A person is saved by the life of Jesus, through whom the person is reconciled to God.

### **Application:**

Since all these things are said to save a person from His sins, what should one conclude?

Should a person conclude that only one of these things is required to save him?

Should a person conclude that all of them are necessary to save him?

How can you know if you have the right answer?

Check the timing of the source.

Is the information current?

Does the information apply now?

Check the relevance of the source.

Could the source be wrong?

Is the source complete and thorough?

Check the authority of the source.

Who published the material?

Who wrote the piece in question?

What is their report among colleagues?

Check the accuracy of the source.

What supporting evidence is given?

Where did the claims come from?

Check the purpose of the source.

What was the motive behind publishing this source?

What was the purpose of the source?

Check compliance with the source.

Misinterpreting, misunderstanding, or misrepresenting truth makes a case false.

Make corrections as needed.

Truth is the complete, accurate, honest, and real details of a matter.

The truth will stand up to scrutinizing questions.

The truth is current and applicable.

The truth is verifiable.

The truth is “there is salvation in no one else; for **there is no other name** under heaven that has been given among men **by which we must be saved**” (Acts 4:12).

**Conclusion:**

What will save a person from his sins?

Acceptance of Jesus Christ through faith which leads the person to repent of sin, confess belief in Jesus’ resurrection, and be baptized in the name of Jesus for the forgiveness of sins, thus receiving God’s grace and reconciliation.

All these things will save a person; thus, you must pick to abide by all of the above.