

## HOW IS MAN SAVED?

The question of salvation of the soul has haunted and divided people from the time when sin entered the world. God's intention from the very beginning was that the one creation that He made in His own image, a human being with an eternal soul, would live in oneness with Him. God knew, however, that every man would sin, thus separating each of us from the Perfect, Holy One, who cannot co-exist with sin. In Ephesians 3:8-12 Paul reveals that *"the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord."* God planned from the beginning to create a bridge between Himself and sinful man by sending His Son down from heaven to live a perfect life, fulfill countless Old Testament prophecies, be crucified, killed as a human, resurrected, and then taken up into heaven to reign until He comes back again to judge us all when the universe is destroyed. Using the Bible as the only authority in religious/spiritual matters, we can answer the question, "How is man saved?" Let's examine the scriptures for the answers.

1. God saves. *"Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the One who justifies."* (Romans 8:33)
2. Hope saves. *"For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one also hope for what he sees?"* (Romans 8:24) *"This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil."* (Hebrews 6:18)
3. The Word saves. *"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek."* (Romans 1:16) *"Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls."* (James 1:21)
4. Faith saves. *"Therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace with God thru the Lord Jesus Christ."* (Romans 5:1)
5. Jesus Christ saves. *"And she will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for it is He who will save His people from their sins."* (Matthew 1:21) *"It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all."* (I Timothy 1:15)
6. Grace saves. *"For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God."* (Ephesians 2:8) *"being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus."* (Romans 3:24)
7. Confessing Jesus as Lord saves. *"that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved."* (Romans 10:9)
8. Mercy saves. *"He saved us not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit."* (Titus 3:5)
9. Blood of Christ saves. *"knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ."* (I Peter 1:18,19)
10. Repentance saves. *"For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation; but the sorrow of the world produces death."* (I Corinthians 7:10)
11. Works save. *"You see that a man is justified by works, and not by faith alone."* (James 2:24)
12. Baptism saves. *"And now corresponding to that, baptism now saves you – not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience – through the resurrection of Jesus Christ."* (I Peter 3:21) *"He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned."* (Mark 16:16)

**13. Ongoing faithfulness saves.** “...*Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.*”  
(Revelation 2:10)

Too often, many people focus only on faith or only on baptism as the means by which we are saved. Based on the above scriptures, it is a combination of many factors, all working in harmony, which will allow us to be given an eternal home in heaven. Let us strive to make sure that we understand and are complying with all of God’s criteria in this regard.

Richard Bartholomew