
BIBLE TALK

This week the question is: **Must all men do the same thing to be saved?**

Does God have different ways of saving different people? Does He save one man in one way and another man in a different way? Many years ago Country & Western singer, Tom T. Hall, wrote a song entitled, "Me And Jesus." The chorus of that song read:

Me and Jesus got our own thing going
Me and Jesus got it all worked out
Me and Jesus got our own thing going
We don't need anybody to tell us what it's all about

That song leaves the impression that each individual person has the ability to strike up their own deal with Jesus. In other words, it is possible for each individual to approach the Lord and "make an offer" which the Lord might possibly agree upon.

Let me illustrate it like this. There are two shopping experiences which a person can experience:

- a) The Retail-Store-Experience
- b) The Yard-Sale-Experience

The Retail-Store-Experience is when a person goes to the retail store and sees something he wants. The price is marked on the item and if you want it, you pay the price. There is no negotiating. The cashier will not negotiate, bargain or reach a deal with you other than what the price tag says.

The Yard-Sale-Experience is different. The price on yard sale items is a beginning price for negotiations. No one pays the asking price for yard sale items. When you find something you like at a yard sale, you begin negotiating with the owner and deals are made. Negotiations occur. Bargains are reached.

So it is with salvation. Many people, like Tom T. Hall's song suggests, think salvation is like the Yard-Sale-Experience. They think the asking price on salvation is merely a beginning point for negotiations with the Lord. Some people think they can have their own personal deal or bargain with the Lord and the deal they make may very likely be different than the deal someone else makes.

Is this the way it works? Does the Bible teach this? Is salvation like the Yard-Sale-Experience wherein sinners bargain with the Lord for salvation at reduced rates ... specially tailored just for an individual person? Or is salvation like the Retail-Store-Experience where the Lord sets the price (or terms) and if a person wants salvation, he pays the price without negotiation with the Lord at all? What does the Bible say?

A KEY PASSAGE

Listen carefully to the following key passage:

Ephesians 4:4-6

- 4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling;
- 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism;
- 6 one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

This passage teaches a "one-size-fits-all" standard of salvation. In other words, anyone who would be saved must do the very same thing anyone else does. There are not tailor-made offers of salvation wherein one person is saved at a bargain price which has lower requirements than another person.

What the Lord requires of one person to do to be saved, He requires the same thing of everyone else. All men must do the same thing to be saved.

Romans 1:16

- 16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

From this we learn there is only one gospel of Christ. It is God's power to save men and it is required of both Jews and Gentiles. Whatever a Jew has to do to be saved, a Gentile has to do the same thing.

In the Book of Acts, after the Lord's death and after the new covenant had come into force, you will see how men were saved from their sins and they all had to do the same thing!

Acts 2:38 – the Jews were saved when they believed in Christ, repented of their sins and were immersed in water for the remission of sins.

Acts 8:12 – the Samaritans were saved in the same way. They too had to believe in Christ, repent of their sins and be immersed in water for the remission of their sins.

Acts 8:38 – the Ethiopians had to do the exact same thing. Just like the Jews and Samaritans, they had to believe in Christ, repent of their sins and be immersed in water for the remission of sins.

Acts 10:48 – the Gentiles were required to do the same thing. They too had to believe in Christ, repent of their sins and be immersed in water for the remission of sins.

In every case of conversion in the Book of Acts you will see men and women doing the exact same thing. Everyone had to believe, repent and be immersed in order to be saved!

How then can churches, or preachers today offer men different ways of being saved?

- c) What right does any church, or preacher have to tell people that they can simply "accept Jesus as their personal Saviour" and pray for forgiveness of sins?
- d) What right does anyone have to think that they can be saved in their "own way"?

Can't you see that what God requires of one man, He requires the same thing from another.

Acts 10:34

34 Then Peter opened his mouth and said: "In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality.

God does not show partiality! He shows no preference for one man over another. What He requires of one man He requires of another man. All men of all nations must do the same thing to be saved!

- He does not save one man by prayer
- Another man by a vision in the night
- Another man by an angel from heaven
- Another man by a miracle
- Another man by sprinkling
- Another many by immersion in water

All men of all nations must do the same thing to be saved! What God required of men in the Book of Acts He still requires of men today living in America, or Ethiopia, or any other country. That's why Jesus said to His disciples:

Mark 16:15-16

15 ... "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.

16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; ...

Every creature in all the world must hear the gospel preached, they must all believe it and they must all be baptized to be saved.

If you yourself have not done these things we want to encourage you to obey the terms which the Lord has given to all who would be saved. If you have not obeyed the gospel, we encourage you to contact us and we will help you to obey the gospel plan of salvation.