
BIBLE TALK

This week the question is: **Does the Bible teach sinners to "accept Jesus as your personal Savior?"**

Virtually all evangelical churches teach sinners, that if they want to be saved and go to heaven, these sinners should "*accept Jesus as your personal Savior.*" What we're asking on Bible Talk this week is simply: Is this true? Does the Bible teach sinners to simply "*accept Jesus as their personal Savior*"?

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

First, let's begin by simply asking, what do evangelical churches mean when they tell sinners to "*accept Jesus as your personal Savior.*" Basically these churches mean:

- Believe that Jesus is the Son of God.
- And say a prayer to Him asking Him to save you from your sins.

In other words, this is simply saying, (a) believe in Jesus and (b) say a prayer.

IS THIS TRUE?

Q: Does the Bible teach this?

Let's see. I invite your attention to Acts 2. This is the Day of Pentecost. Fifty days before this the Jewish leaders, with the approval of the Jewish public, put Jesus to death and crucified Him on the cross of Calvary. On this Day of Pentecost, 50 days later, the apostle Peter rebuked the Jewish nation – the leaders and the laymen – of being guilty of murder. Peter preached they were guilty of murdering the Son of God. Now watch what happens:

Acts 2:37

³⁷ Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?"

Here are the Jewish people asking what to do to be saved. What were they told? Were they told to "accept Jesus as their personal Savior"? Let's see:

Acts 2:38

³⁸ Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; ...

- Nothing about "accepting Jesus as their Savior."
- Nothing about "just believe and you'll be saved."
- Nothing about "say the sinner's prayer."

But there was something about repentance mentioned. Repentance means to "change your ways." There was also something about baptism in water for the forgiveness of sins. Please notice, these people would not be forgiven of their sins until they were baptized in water. This also contradicts what evangelical churches teach, because they teach baptism is for people who are already saved. Evangelical churches teach baptism is an "outward sign" of already being saved. No. The apostle Peter said baptism was "for the remission of sins." Sinners could not be saved unless they are first baptized and then the baptism must be for the right reason – "for the forgiveness of sins."

SAUL OF TARSUS

Let's look at another example. In Acts 9 there is a man named Saul from the city of Tarsus. He has been persecuting the Lord's church. On the way to arrest some Christians in Damascus, the Lord Himself struck Saul down and appeared to Him. Saul, as you can imagine was terrified. He asked, "Lord who are You?" Jesus said, "I'm Jesus Whom you are persecuting." Saul realized how wrong he had been in persecuting the church of Christ.

Acts 9:6

⁶ So he, trembling and astonished, said, "Lord, what do You want me to do?" Then the Lord said to him, "Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

You will notice that the Lord did not answer Saul's question. You will also notice Saul was told to go into the city of Damascus and wait. Someone would be sent by the Lord with instructions on what Saul should do.

The preacher was chosen and sent. When he arrived, what did the preacher tell Saul? Did he tell Saul to "accept Jesus as your personal Savior"? Not at all. Listen to what the inspired preacher said:

Acts 22:16

¹⁶ 'And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.'

Here Saul is told to do the very same thing the people on Pentecost were told to do. In order to have forgiveness of sins, Saul had to be baptized in water.

You will notice that when a sinner is baptized in water he is, by that action of baptism, "calling on the name of the Lord."

CONCLUSION

- When evangelical churches teach sinners to say the "sinner's prayer," they are teaching something the Bible never taught.
- When evangelical churches teach sinners to "accept Jesus as your personal Savior," they are teaching something the Bible never taught.

In other words, evangelical churches are not helping anyone to become saved. All they are doing is convincing lost sinners they are saved without actually being saved. How serious this really is.

My friend, if you have never been baptized for the purpose of having the Lord's blood wash your sins away (Acts 22:16), then you are not saved as revealed in the Bible. We exhort you to consider this carefully, because your eternal destiny could possibly be at stake.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Well ... thanks for listening to our message this week. We invite you to visit our website www.WillOfTheLord.com. There you may download the notes and the audio file of the message you just listened to.

Call again next week when we consider a new subject on *Bible Talk*.