

## What must I hear to be saved?

*Acts 26:16-18*

### Introduction

1. Philippian jailer's question most important – **Acts 16:30**
  2. Paul and Silas' response – **Acts 16:31** – Believe on Jesus.
  3. Paul's reasoning according to the gospel plan – **Romans 10:14-17** – Call on Him, believed, heard, preacher, sent, faith by hearing word of God.
  4. Paul and Silas' next action – **Acts 16:32** – preached the word of the Lord.
  5. Important question – What must I hear to be saved?
    - a. Many conflicting messages exist.
    - b. Only hearing God's word produces faith.
  6. The sending of Paul to preach what must be heard – **Acts 26:16-18**
- I. Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God
    - A. "To make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you"
    - B. Jesus Was Resurrected
      - a. His claim – **John 5:16-18** – equal with God, Son of God.
        - i. **John 2:18-22** – spoke of resurrection. (More than just here)
        - ii. **Matthew 27:62-64** – secured tomb because they remembered His words concerning resurrection.
      - b. What Paul witnessed – **1 Corinthians 15:3-8** – resurrected Lord, born out of due time.
      - c. Declared Son of God – **Romans 1:4**; As the apostles confessed before – **Matthew 16:16**
    - C. Jesus is Lord and Christ
      - a. There are important implications to the proof of His deity, and practical obligations to the ones who believe.
      - b. Peter on Pentecost – **Acts 2:33-36**
        - i. Seated at God's right hand – authority, throne, king.
        - ii. Lord and Christ – rule which must be submitted to – only source of deliverance (Christ – **Acts 3:24-26**)
      - c. Logical/honest response – **Acts 2:37** – what shall we do?
        - i. All who come to the realization of His kingship have the responsibility to submit.
        - ii. Contradiction – some claim to believe God raised Him from the dead, but they don't submit to His rule – practical unbelief.
  - II. Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life
    - A. "To open their eyes in order to turn them from darkness to light"
    - B. To Be in Darkness is to Be Lost
      - a. **John 12:35** – does not know where He is going.
      - b. Darkness = sin/ignorance – **1 John 1:5** (in God is no darkness)
        - i. **2 Corinthians 6:14** – contrast of righteousness/lawlessness, light/darkness.

- ii. **Ephesians 5:11** – unfruitful works of darkness.
    - c. Eternal separation from God characterized by darkness – **Matthew 25:30**
  - C. Jesus Exposes Darkness
    - a. **John 1:4-5, 9** – bringing life through light to every man.
    - b. **John 3:18-21** – must make the choice to turn to the light.
    - c. Jesus is that exclusive light – **John 14:6**
      - i. Absolute objective truth – contrary to popular belief.
      - ii. Little darkness is great darkness – **Matthew 6:22-23**
      - iii. Cannot walk in darkness (sin/ignorance) and have salvation – **1 John 1:5-7**
- III. Jesus Requires Full Submission
  - A. “and from the power of Satan to God” (power – *exousia* – authority)
  - B. Serving One of Two Masters
    - a. Jews exposed to be children of the devil – **John 8:34, 37-47** – not standing in truth – rejected Jesus.
      - i. **2 Corinthians 4:3-4** – blinded by the god of this age.
    - b. Satan is the god of this age, the prince of the power of the air – **Ephesians 2:2-3**
      - i. Those who serve this prince – disobedient to God, conduct self in lust of flesh.
      - ii. **2 Timothy 2:26** – ensnared by the devil, taken captive to do His will.
    - c. Not for Jesus, against Jesus – **Matthew 12:30** – serving Satan.
    - d. Make self an enemy of God – **James 4:4**
  - C. You Must be Converted
    - a. “to turn them...from the power of Satan to God” – turn – *epistrepḗō* – “(2) to change direction, (3) to cause a pers. to change belief or course of conduct, with focus on the thing to which one turns, (4) to change one’s mind or course of action, for better or worse” (BDAG)
    - b. **Acts 3:19** – repent and be converted (same word)
      - i. Repent – *metanoēō*; to think differently or afterwards, i.e. reconsider. (Strong)
      - ii. Be converted – Changing the mind, and corresponding action over to the authority God.
    - c. Continuing in sin is to continue in slavery to sin – **Romans 6:16** – slave of Satan.
    - d. Jesus requires full change to conform to His will in order to be saved.
- IV. Jesus Offers Forgiveness and Hope
  - A. “that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance”
  - B. Jesus Came to Save, not Destroy
    - a. Jesus appeared for sin, or on account of sin – **Hebrews 9:27-28**
      - i. To condemn sin by His death – **Romans 8:3-4**
      - ii. Came to save – **Luke 9:56**
    - b. Second appearance – apart from sin for salvation:

- i. When salvation comes for some, destruction comes for others – **2 Thessalonians 1:7-10**
      - ii. Assurance by resurrection – **Acts 17:30-31** – call to repentance.
    - c. No atonement w/out blood – **Hebrews 9:22**
    - d. Saved/forgiven washed in blood of Jesus – **Revelation 7:14-15**
    - e. Baptism – **Romans 6:3-4** (blood by metonymy for death)
  - C. Jesus Offer's Greater Things Than the World
    - a. Those baptized are “born again” – **John 3:3, 5**
    - b. They are given an inheritance – **1 Peter 1:3-5** (greater than anything in the world.)
    - c. Gain the world, or lose soul? – **Mark 8:34-37**
- V. Jesus' Offer is Exclusive
  - A. “among those who are sanctified by faith in Me”
  - B. Salvation is Not for the Majority
    - a. Wide way and narrow way – **Matthew 7:13-14**
    - b. Many will say – **Matthew 7:21-23**
    - c. Many called, few chosen – **Matthew 22:14**
    - d. Reason for intense searching to be found approved of God – **2 Timothy 2:15** – are you?
  - C. Only the Sanctified are Saved
    - a. Sanctified – set apart.
    - b. **Romans 1:16** – Gospel saves believers.
    - c. **Romans 10:16-17** – those who have believed, and obeyed what they heard in the gospel.
    - d. Set apart by faith Christ – **Ephesians 1:3; Galatians 3:26-29** – baptized into Christ.

### Conclusion

1. The gospel is that which saves. The gospel is a message that must be heard.
2. If you are not hearing the gospel you cannot be saved.
3. Have you heard? Do you believe? Will you obey?