

WHAT DOES GOD REQUIRE OF MEN?

By Keith Greer

"Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." {Acts 4:12}

In the book of Acts, Luke makes this affirmation concerning our salvation. While we admit this is a wonderful opportunity, it is not without conditions. Christ offers men salvation, but what does He require of those who will come?

"But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." {Hebrews 11:6} How does one get this type of faith? "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." {Romans 10:17} One must **HEAR** what God has to say!

Faith alone; is it enough? Not according to James 2:14-26. One's faith must motivate him to "do something." "But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe--and tremble!" {James 2:18,19} What did it motivate those on Pentecost to do, when they understood they had murdered God's Son? "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?" {Acts 2:37} By faith they knew the guilt of sin was upon them. All must come to this realization before God. This leads us to the next step.

"I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish." {Luke 13:3} One must **REPENT** of his sins. A change of mind results in a change of conduct. "Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing. For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death." {2 Corinthians 7:9,10}

"Then Philip said, if you believe with all your heart, you may ... I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." {Acts 8:37} One must make the **CONFESSION** with his mouth, which he believes in his heart. Also read Romans 10:9,10. Confession is more than a ONE time act. This means we have changed allegiance – no longer a servant of sin and the devil, but submitting our lives to Christ – He is now our Master. Please read Romans 6:16-18.

"There is also an antitype which now saves us--baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ." {1 Peter 3:21} **BAPTISM** is where man comes into contact with the blood of Christ, which takes away the sin! Romans 6:3,4; Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 2:11-13.

Now that person is a Christian, and has been added to the church, Acts 2:47. What still remains to be done? Many people believe man is saved at this point and can never again be lost. Does God still require something from me after baptism?

"That you may have a walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;" {Colossians 1:10} "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord." {1 Corinthians 15:58}

One must **CONTINUE TO GROW** and be productive as a child of God. The hard part is after baptism! Christ requires me to live the life of a Christian. The good news about all of this, man has the ability to do anything God has required of him for salvation. Only question – will he? ***