

GOD'S CHAIN OF SALVATION

By Keith Greer

Both Divine and human factors are involved in the salvation equation. God will not save a person who does not want to be saved, and of course, no one can save himself without God's help. Not one factor in the "**chain of salvation**" is independent from the others; therefore, none should be thought of as less important than the others. Unbelievers must accept everything required by God's Scheme of Redemption. Let us briefly examine the Divine **chain of salvation**.

God Is Our Savior. "For to this end we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe." {1 Timothy 4:10} There is only one Savior {Ephesians 5:23-25}.

Jesus Christ Saves. "And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins." {Matthew 1:21} God sent His Son to pay the redemption price for our sin—to provide a divine remedy for mankind's sin problem.

The Holy Spirit Saves. "Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment." {John 16:7,8} The Holy Spirit revealed God's mind, wherein resided the plan He had for man's salvation.

Grace Saves. "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast." {Ephesians 2:8,9} Nobody can be saved without God's grace—it is the determining factor in the equation.

Christ's Blood Saves. "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him." {Romans 5:8,9} Christ's blood paid for mankind's sins {1 Peter 1:18, 19}. All people sin, so all need to be washed in Christ's blood {Revelation 1:5}.

His Name Saves. "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} Notice that salvation is found in only ONE name—no other will get the job done!

The Gospel Saves. "Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you--unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures." {1 Corinthians 15:1-4} What message is more powerful than the gospel? {Romans 1:16}

Hearing, Belief, Repentance, Confession, and Baptism Save. Romans 10:17; John 8:24; Acts 2:38; Romans 10:9,10; 1 Peter 3:21. These five steps to salvation must be taken by the alien sinner – one who is outside of Christ. In the book of Acts – the book of conversions – all converts took these steps.

No chain is stronger than its weakest link! Some people in the religious world want to debate over and exclude some of these links. Which one would you subtract and have confidence that the chain would be stronger than it was with that link? How can the creature be wiser than His Creator? God had an eternal plan designed before He created the world, bringing sinful man back into a fellowship with Him. Just follow the chain! Simple isn't it? ***