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# 15 Things Said to SAVE

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A jailor was asleep. Two troublemakers had been placed in stocks in the inner prison where they were praying and singing. Suddenly at midnight there was a great earthquake. Fearing the prisoners had escaped the jailor attempted to kill himself. The two prisoners, Paul and Silas, stopped him with the assurance that all the prisoners were still there. He asked them one of the most important questions of all time: "What must I do to be saved?" "So they said, 'Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household' (Acts 16:31).

At first glance one might assume all that is needed to procure salvation is to merely believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. This interpretation would be in keeping with the doctrines found in the creed books of men. Please note the quotes below.

- The Baptist teach: "We believe the Scriptures teach that the great gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in him is justification; that justification includes pardon of sin and the gift of eternal life on principles of righteousness; that it is bestowed not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in Christ..." (The Standard Manual for Baptist Churches, p. 62).
- The Methodist believe: "Wherefore, that we are justified by faith only is a most wholesome doctrine and very full of comfort" (Doctrines and Discipline of the Methodist Church, 1964, p. 38).
- The Presbyterians affirm the same: "Faith thus receiving and resting on Christ and his righteousness is the alone instrument of justification..." (The Confession of

Faith of the Presbyterian Church, chapter XI, Sec. 2, p. 48).

However, the Bible never teaches that the lost sinner can be saved from his sins by merely or solely or only believing. Various passages in the Bible list other things which are said to save. These can be divided into things God has done for man to be saved and things man must do in order to procure salvation from God.

## 1) God Sending His Son

Paul encourages all men to pray for all men "for this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Tim 2:3-4). Without God there is no hope in being saved. He sent His Son (John 3:16) to save men.

## 2) Jesus Coming to Earth

Jesus in explaining His purpose in coming to this world said, "for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10).

## 3) Blood of Christ

It was not enough for Christ to merely come to earth. He had to shed His blood to redeem man from sin and provide a way for sinful man's justification. "Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him" (Romans 5:9).

## 4) Grace

Since no one can pay for his own sins or do anything to earn salvation, forgiveness of sins must come as a result of God giving to us by His grace that which we do not deserve. "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. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them" (Eph 2:8-10).

## 5) Gospel

Man needs God's grace to be saved. Salvation is conditioned upon man's response to God's great gift the Good News (Gospel) having

been sent out via the Great Commission for all men to hear, believe and obey. Paul said, "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" (Romans 1:16).

## 6) Preaching

The Gospel is "the message preached to save those who believe" (1 Cor. 1:21b). In order for the message of the Gospel to be heard it must be preached. God has chosen men, not angels or the Holy Spirit, to be His mouth piece for the proclamation of the Gospel. Preaching is something men must do for other men to be saved. "How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?" (Romans 10:14). The lost sinner responds to this preaching by hearing and believing the Gospel message. "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17).

## 7) Words

Although an angel and the Holy Spirit were indirectly involved in the conversion of the first Gentiles, Cornelius had to send for Peter "who will tell you words by which you and all your household will be saved" (Acts 11:14). The words Peter preached were from God.

## 8) Faith

As noted above, faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is necessary to be saved (Acts 16:30-31). This faith must come from hearing the words of the Gospel preached. Paul wrote, "Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 5:1). Note the terms "only" or "solely" or "alone" are not found in this verse. In fact, the only time the term "only" is used in connection with the term faith and salvation is found in James 2:24: "You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only."

## 9) Works

Although the Bible is very clear that man cannot save himself by just performing a number

of good works and earning salvation from God, yet Paul told the Philippians, *“therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure”* (Phil 2:12-13). These are not the works of one’s own devising. Neither can the works of the Law of Moses save. However, the works of God are essential conditions for man’s salvation. Faith is a work of God. When Jesus was feeding the 5,000 He was asked, *“what shall we do, that we may work the works of God?”* Jesus answered and said to them, *‘This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent’*” (John 6:28-29).

**10) Repentance**

After being accused of killing the very Son of God the Jews on the day of Pentecost asked, *“What shall we do?”* 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; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit’*” (Acts 2:38).

**11) Confession**

Another work of God man is required to meet is to confess his faith publicly. Paul wrote, *“that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation”* (Romans 10:9,10).

**12) Baptism**

Although many reject the necessity of baptism Jesus was very clear when He said, *“He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned”* (Mark 16:16). Just as water was necessary to save Noah and his family from the destruction of a wicked world, so baptism is needed to save us. *“The re 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).

**13) Faithfulness**

Since the Bible no where teaches once saved always saved, once a man is saved from sin he needs to continue to be faithful all his life in order to have etemal salvation. *“Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life”* (Rev 2:10).

**14) Hope**

For those who have obeyed the Gospel and had their sins washed away in baptism (Acts 22:16), and are remaining faithful there is the hope which saves. *“For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance”* (Romans 8:24-25).

**15) Yourselves**

God has done His part in the salvation of man it is therefore up to the sinner to see to it that he does his part in being saved. *“Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you”*(1 Tim 4:16 ). Have you done your part?

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**Service Times**

**Sunday**

Bible Study.....9:30 am  
Worship Service.....10:30 am  
Worship Service.....5:00 pm

**Wednesday**

Bible Study.....7:30 pm

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15

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by Daniel R. Vess