

Ethos: What We Believe About Salvation

Lighthouse Church

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What Salvation is Not

- Not works based
- Not Universal
- Not simply just being saved from hell
- Our need for salvation/What we are saved from

What It Means to Be Saved

Acts 16:16-40

16 As we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by fortune-telling. 17 She followed Paul and us, crying out, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation." 18 And this she kept doing for many days. Paul, having become greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour. 19 But when her owners saw that their hope of gain was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the rulers. 20 And when they had brought them to the magistrates, they said, "These men are Jews, and they are disturbing our city. 21 They advocate customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to accept or practice." 22 The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates tore the garments off them and gave orders to beat them with rods. 23 And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, ordering the jailer to keep them safely. 24 Having received this order, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. 25 About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, 26 and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. And immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's bonds were unfastened. 27 When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. 28 But Paul cried with a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." 29 And the jailer called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas. 30 Then he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" 31 And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." 32 And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. 33 And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family. 34 Then he brought them up into his house and set food before them. And he rejoiced along with his entire household that he had believed in God. 35 But when it was day, the magistrates sent the police, saying, "Let those men go." 36 And the jailer reported these words to Paul, saying, "The magistrates have sent to let you go. Therefore come out

now and go in peace.” 37 But Paul said to them, “They have beaten us publicly, uncondemned, men who are Roman citizens, and have thrown us into prison; and do they now throw us out secretly? No! Let them come themselves and take us out.” 38 The police reported these words to the magistrates, and they were afraid when they heard that they were Roman citizens. 39 So they came and apologized to them. And they took them out and asked them to leave the city. 40 So they went out of the prison and visited Lydia. And when they had seen the brothers, they encouraged them and departed.

The Jailer asked a simple question with eternal significance

On the surface

Paul and Silas needed to be saved from false accusations vs 20-21

Paul and Silas needed to be saved from the attacks of the crowd vs 22

Paul and Silas needed to be saved from public beatings vs 22

Paul and Silas needed to be saved from Prison vs 23

The Jailer needed to be saved from a death sentence vs 27

The Jailer needed to be saved from a suicide attempt vs 27-28

The magistrate needed to save a reputation 36-38

When the jailers asks “what must I do to be saved?” He isn’t asking about his physical life he is asking about his eternal life.

We each have to come to the realization that we need to be saved from a life without God.

The New Testament refers to life without God as darkness

Ephesians 6:12 - 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places

John 3:19 - 19 This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.

John 8:12 - 12 When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

46 I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness.

The Accomplishment of Jesus

1 Cor 5:1-4

Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, 2 and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,

ἁμαρτία - sin
- miss the mark
- not to hit
- error / erroneous actions

Luke 24:45 Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, 46 and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, 47 and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. 48 You are witnesses of these things

μετάνοια - repent
- turn around
- change direction

As followers of Jesus we are called to change directions and turn our backs to a sinful lifestyle

We believe salvation is God’s free gift to us, that we must accept. We can never make up for our sin through self-improvement or good works. Only by placing our faith in the person and work of Jesus Christ as God’s pathway to forgiveness can anyone be saved from sin’s penalty of eternal separation from God. When we turn away from our self-ruled life and turn to Jesus in faith we are saved. Eternal life with God begins the moment a person receives Jesus Christ into their life by faith.