

20. WHAT ARE SOME THINGS THAT ACCOMPANY SALVATION?

Let The Scriptures Answer

INTRODUCTION

In Hebrews 6:9, God's people are encouraged to give attention to **“things that accompany salvation.”** Today, so many are looking for a “quick-fix” plan for salvation, instead of taking the time to search the Scriptures to learn of all the **“things that accompany salvation.”**

Some looking at John 3:16 and Acts 16:31, conclude that salvation is accomplished by belief alone. Some read Romans 10:9 and conclude that salvation is accomplished by faith and confession alone. Others read Mark 16:16 and conclude that salvation is accomplished by belief and baptism alone. Some affirm that salvation is accomplished by prayer—that it is all a matter of just asking God to save you. And others read Ephesians 2:8-9 and conclude that there is nothing left for man to do since salvation is the gift of God's grace. Such widely differing views in the religious world foster so much division and frustration. Much of this could be resolved, however, if one would simply apply some common sense rules to Bible study. For example, God, Christ, the Holy Spirit and the Holy Scriptures are all revealed to man as the embodiment of truth. But truth does not contradict itself. Contradictions occur, therefore, from faulty conclusions drawn from erroneous interpretations of the Scriptures.

God promised to give Israel the promised land (Josh. 1:2-6), but the gift was conditional (Lev. 26; Deut. 28). In like manner, man's salvation today is the gift of God (Lk. 17:10; Eph. 2:8-9; Titus 3:3-5), but this gift is also conditional. Contrary to what many teach, the Lord has given each of us a measure of responsibility for the attainment of this gift: The apostle Peter told sinners: **“Save yourselves from this untoward generation”** (Acts 2:40 KJV; Phil. 2:12). But if the attainment of heaven is conditional, what are the conditions? And just what are the **“things that accompany salvation”**? The “things that accompany salvation” fall into two classifications: (1) That which the Lord has done to make man's salvation possible; and (2) that which God has given man to do to receive the promised gift.

THINGS THAT ACCOMPANY SALVATION: THE LORD'S PART

1. We are saved by the living God:

1 Timothy 4

10 ...we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men...

2. We are saved by the grace of God:

Titus 2

11 ...the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men...

3. We are saved by God's mercy:

Titus 3

5 ...according to His mercy He saved us...
cf. 1 Peter 1:3

4. We are saved by Christ:

Matthew 1

21 “...you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” cf. John 14:6; Acts 4:12; 1 Tim. 1:15; Heb. 5:8-9

5. We are saved by the sacrificial death of Christ and by His atoning blood:

Ephesians 1

7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins... cf. Matt. 26:28; Rom. 4:25; 5:8-10; Heb. 9:22; 10:10

6. We are saved by the Holy Spirit:

The Holy Spirit guided the apostles into all the truth that makes men free (John 8:32; 14:26; 16:13). The Christian's purification, sanctification and justification is made possible in part by the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 6:11; Titus 3:5).

7. We are saved by the words of Christ:

John 6

63 “The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.” —Jesus Christ

James 1

21 Therefore...receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. cf. John 6:68; Acts 13:26; Romans 10:17

8. We are saved by the gospel:

Romans 1

16 ...the gospel of Christ...is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes...
cf. 1 Cor. 1:18; Eph. 1:13; 2 Thess. 2:14

1 Corinthians 15

1 “Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand,

2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you...” – Paul

**THINGS THAT ACCOMPANY SALVATION:
MAN'S PART**

1. We are saved by being born again:

John 3

3 [Jesus said:] “...I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

5 ...unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God”

One must be born of God (John 1:12-13) and begotten by the gospel, the word of truth (1 Cor. 4:15, James 1:18, 1 Pet. 1:23) to be in His family. Some marks of this new birth are:

(1) putting off the old man of sin and putting **“on the new man which was created according to God in true righteousness and holiness”** (Eph. 4:23-24; cf. 2 Cor. 5:17)

(2) practicing righteousness (1 John 2:29; 3:7)

(3) avoiding sin (1 John 3:6, 9; 5:18)

(4) loving God and those born of God (1 John 4:7; 5:1)

(5) keeping faith in Christ as the Son of God (1 John 5:1)

(6) overcoming the world (1 John 5:4)

(7) practicing self control (1 John 5:18).

2. We are saved by faith in God and Christ.

Hebrews 11

6 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.

John 8

24 “Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.” –Jesus Christ cf. Eph. 2:8; John 3:16; Acts 16:31; Heb. 11:6; Rom. 5:1).

3. Inasmuch as we are saved by the word of the Lord (John 6:63, 68; Acts 13:26; James 1:21), **we are saved through the hearing and understanding of the gospel:**

Romans 10

17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Ephesians 5

17 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

4. We are saved through obedience to Christ and to the gospel of Christ:

Hebrews 5

8 though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.

9 And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him...

1 John 2

3 Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.

4 He who says, “I know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

5 But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. cf. 1 John 2:3-5; cf. Acts 6:7; Gal. 5:6; 1 Thess. 1:3; James 2:14-26; John 14:15; 15:14; 1 John 5:2

The Lord is coming to take **“vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord...”** (2 Thess. 1:7-9).

5. We are saved by confessing with our mouth our belief (faith) that Christ is the Son of God:

Matthew 10

32 “Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven.

33 But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.” –Jesus Christ cf. Acts 8:35-37; Rom. 10:9-10

Romans 10

9 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.

10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

6. Our salvation must be accompanied by repentance of our sins:

Luke 13

3 “...unless you repent you will all likewise perish.” [repeated in verse 5] *–Jesus Christ*

cf. 2 Peter 3:9; Acts 2:38; 3:19; 17:30; Rev. 2:4-5

Godly sorrow produces repentance (2 Cor. 7:10) and repentance involves changing one’s life to conform to God’s will for our lives (Matt. 21:28-31).

7. Our salvation must be accompanied by baptism which has been authorized by the Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

Matthew 28

18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you...

Mark 16

16 “He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.” *–Jesus Christ*

1 Peter 3 [NASB]

20 ...the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through the water.

21 And corresponding to that, baptism now saves you-- not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience-- through the resurrection of Jesus Christ...

The purpose of water baptism is (1) to gain entrance into Christ (Gal. 3:27; Rom. 6:3) and entrance into His body, the church (1 Cor. 12:13; Eph. 1:22-23); (2) to come in contact with the atoning blood of Christ by being buried in the likeness of His death (Rom. 6:3-5; Col. 2:12); (3) to receive the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16);

and (4) to render obedience to the gospel of Christ (Acts 8:12, 35-39; 9:18; 10:47-48; 16:14-15, 32-33; 18:8; cf. Luke 7:30).

8. Our salvation must be accompanied by our getting into Christ, abiding in Christ and being fruitful and productive in His work:

All spiritual blessings are in Christ (Eph. 1:3; cf. 2 Cor. 5:17), and one gets into Christ by being baptized into Christ (Rom. 6:3; Gal. 3:27). But one must abide in Christ and be fruitful to be saved:

John 15

2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

5 I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

6 If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. *–Jesus Christ*

9. Our salvation must be accompanied by our being spiritually minded and having the Spirit of Christ:

Romans 8

6 For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.

8 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

9 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.

10 And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your

mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors -- not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.

13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

Our salvation, therefore, must involve (1) our growing in the likeness and image of Him who created us (Romans 8:1-11, 29; 2 Cor. 5:17; Eph. 2:10; 4:24; Col. 3:10), and (2) our bearing the fruit of the Spirit: **love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self control, righteousness and truth** (Gal. 5:22-23; Eph. 5:9-10).

10. Our salvation must be accompanied by the Lord adding us to His church, for:

Acts 2

47 ...the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

And those the Lord added to His church were those who had repented and been baptized for the remission of their sins and who had continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine, in fellowship, in the breaking of bread and in prayers (Acts 2:37-42).

11. Our salvation must be accompanied by our giving heed to and continuing in the doctrine (teaching) of Christ:

The apostle Paul wrote to Timothy:

1 Timothy 4

16 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.

cf. 1 Tim. 6:3-5; 2 John 9-11; Gal. 1:8-10).

12. Our salvation must be accompanied by our adding to our faith the following:

2 Peter 1

5 But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge,

6 to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness,

7 to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love.

8 For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

9 For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.

10 Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble...

13. Our salvation must be accompanied by hope:

Romans 8

24 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?

This is true because "we walk by faith and not by sight" (2 Cor. 5:7), although "faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Heb. 11:1).

14. Our salvation must be accompanied by our humbling ourselves before God as little children:

Matthew 18

3 "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

4 Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven." *—Jesus Christ*

Matthew 19

14 ...Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven."

Some child-like characteristics God's people should seek to have are: (1) trust; (2) innocence; (3) purity of heart; and (4) a willingness to forbear, forgive, forget and to not hold grudges; etc.

15. Our salvation must be accompanied by an avoidance of (1) the appearance of evil (1 Thess. 5:22) and (2) the works of the flesh:

1 Corinthians 6

9 Do you not know that the unrighteous will

not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites,

10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.

Galatians 5

19 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness,

20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies,

21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Revelation 21

7 “He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.

8 But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”

16. Our salvation must be accompanied by peace and holiness:

Hebrews 12

14 Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord...

James 3

18 Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace. cf. Rom. 6:22; 2 Cor. 7:1; 1 Peter 1:15-16

17. Our salvation must be accompanied by a righteousness that exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees:

Matthew 5

20 For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. (cf. Rom. 10:1-3).

1 John 2

29 If you know that He [the Lord] is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him.

1 John 3

7 Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous.

18. Our salvation must be accompanied by the bridling of our tongues:

James 1

26 If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless.

(James 1:26; 3:2-13).

19. Our salvation must be accompanied by love: cf. 1 John 3, 4 and 5

1 Corinthians 13

2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.

20. Our salvation must be accompanied by a benevolent spirit that motivates us to be compassionate toward others:

Matthew 25

41 Then He will also say to those on the left hand, “Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels:

42 for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink;

43 I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.

45 ...Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.” cf. James 1:27

21. Our salvation must be accompanied by a merciful disposition:

James 2

13 For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

22. Our salvation must be accompanied by a forgiving spirit:

Matthew 6

14 “For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

15 But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.” --*Jesus Christ* cf. Matt. 18:21-35

23. Our salvation must be accompanied by a strong effort to overcome temptation to sin:

Luke 9

62 ...Jesus said... “No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”

1 John 3

4 Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.

6 Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him. cf. James 1:12-16

8 He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning... cf. 1 John 1:6-10; 3:9

24. Our salvation must be accompanied by self denial and putting the Lord first:

Luke 14

27 “And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.

33 So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.”

Matthew 10

37 “He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.

38 And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.” --*Jesus*

Luke 9

23 Then He said to them all, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.

24 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it.”

CONCLUSION

This study has focused on some “things that accompany salvation” (Heb. 6:9)--one of the most important investigations one can ever make in life. And no, this search is by no means complete. If all of the factors that enter into our salvation could have been summed up in one sentence, one paragraph or even one chapter, there would have been little reason for the Lord giving us the twenty-seven books of the New Covenant. That's why diligent Bible study is so extremely important (Eph. 5:17; Phil 2:12; 2 Tim. 2:15; 3:15-17; James 1:21; 2 Pet. 2:1-2; 3:18).

--*David W. Echols Sr.*