

## What the Bible Teaches

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by Bill Crews

The Bible does not teach:

1. That you are born spiritually lost or that you need to be saved from the guilt of Adam's sin. If so, where?
2. That baptism is for infants or that infant baptism will save anyone. If so, where?
3. That you are born totally depraved and cannot do any thing good until God enables you to. If so, where?
4. That you cannot be saved unless you have been unconditionally and unchangeably foreordained unto eternal life. If so, where?
5. That you can be saved by faith alone or by simply accepting Christ in your heart as your Savior. If so, where?
6. That you can be saved by sincerely praying to God for salvation. Where in the New Testament was any alien sinner called upon to pray for salvation?
7. That, to be saved, you need to be sorry for your sins as you pray until you "pray through." If it does, where?
8. That to be saved, you must have some unusual "salvation experience." If so, where?

The Bible does teach:

1. That at birth and as babies or little ones you do not know good from evil, and you are not accountable (Deut. 1:39), that to enter God's kingdom you must turn and become as a little child (Matt. 18:3-4). The New Testament teaches that those who are lost are lost because of their own sins and that in being saved people are always saved from their own sins (Rom. 3:23; Col. 2:13; Acts 2:38; 3:19; Rev. 1:5). Please read Ezek. 18:20.
2. That baptism is a command to be obeyed by those who have been taught, have believed in Christ, have repented of their sins, and have confessed Christ as Lord (Mk. 16:15-16; Acts 2:38; 8:35-38; Rom. 10:9-10; 10:48; 22:16). There is no baptism of infants or little children anywhere in the New Testament (Acts 8:12).
3. That all men are made upright and then (afterward) they seek out "many inventions" (machinations) (Eccl. 7:29), or like sheep they go astray after their own way (Isa. 53:5-6). Even lost people can do many good and right things (Acts 10:1-6; 11:13-14). And "evil men and imposters" can become "worse and worse" (2 Tim. 3:13). Nobody is born depraved, let alone totally depraved, and few adults, even in their sins, become totally depraved.
4. That God loves all men (Jn. 3:16; 1 Jn. 4:7-8), that Christ died for all men (Heb. 2:9; 1 Jn. 2:2), that salvation is offered to all men (Tit. 2:11-12; Rev. 22:17), and that God wishes none to perish and would have all men to be saved (2 Pet. 3:9; 1 Tim. 2:3-4).
5. That the faith that saves is an active faith, an obedient faith (Gal. 5:6; Acts 18:8; Jas. 2:14-26). The one who receives Jesus as the Christ or who believes in His name is given the power or right to become a child of God (Jn. 1:11-12). Faith alone, or faith without works of obedience, is barren, dead, imperfect, and cannot save (Jas. 2:14-26; see also Heb. 11).
6. That prayer is for the child of God, anyone to whom God has become a spiritual Father. He can rightly address God as "Father"; he can ask in faith (Jas. 1:6); he can ask according to God's will (1 Jn. 5:14); he can ask as one who keeps God's commandments and does the things that are pleasing in His sight (1 Jn.3:22). Such passages on prayer as Heb. 4:14-16; Eph. 6:18; Col. 4:6; Rom. 12:12 and 1 Thess. 5:16-18 were written to Christians. Nowhere in the New Testament were aliens taught to pray for salvation or for anything else.
7. That a lost man, Saul of Tarsus, now convinced that Jesus is the Christ, now sorry for his sins, now fasting and praying, was told, "And now, why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on his name" (Acts 22:16). He was not told to "keep on praying until you pray through."
8. That the people who were saved, according to the numerous examples of conversion in the book of Acts, all heard, believed, and obeyed the gospel of Christ; they were thus saved by God's grace and through their faith. Not a single one them had any of today's so-called "salvation experiences."