

## What Must I Do to be Saved?

Imagine the scene: a jailer, hardened by years of guarding prisoners, suddenly finds himself shaken to his core. An earthquake, a miraculous opening of cell doors, and the unwavering faith of two prisoners converge to shatter his world. In desperation, he cries out the question that has echoed through the ages: “What must I do to be saved?” This isn’t just the jailer’s question; it’s the cry of every human heart longing for meaning, purpose, and freedom from their imprisonment to sin and despair. It’s a question that demands an answer.

1. “What Must I Do to be Saved?” | v. 30
  - a. Jesus came to save those who cry for salvation by surrendering self. | Luk 5:27-32
2. “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved” | v. 31
  - a. Belief/Faith in Jesus is the heart of Christianity. | Rom 1:16-17; 10:9-11; Gal 2:16; Php 3:7-11
  - b. How is belief in Jesus experienced and expressed?
    - i. Is it through a conversion experience, or saying the Sinner’s Prayer, or asking Jesus into our heart? It’s none of the above, but something else altogether.
3. Hear “the Word of the Lord” | v. 32
  - a. Unexplainable events and people may move us toward God (vv. 25-30), but it’s His word that produces faith. | Rom 10:17; cf. Act 13:4-12; Luk 16:27-31; Jhn 4:39-41
  - b. Paul preached the simple gospel of Jesus Christ. | Php 2:6-11
4. Repent of Your Sins | v. 33a
  - a. Jesus preached a message of turning away from sin and turning to Him. | Mrk 1:14-15
  - b. Repentance is a change of heart leading to a change in actions. | Act 26:19-20; Col 3:1-14
5. Be Baptized into Jesus | v. 33b
  - a. The jailer was “immediately” baptized. | Act 2:36-41; 8:36-38; 9:17-18; 10:44-48
  - b. The spiritual benefits of baptism demand an immediate response. | Act 2:38; 22:16; Rom 6:3-4; Gal 3:27-29; Col 2:11-15; Tit 3:4-7; 1 Pet 3:31-22
6. Love Your Neighbor | v. 34a
  - a. Out of gratitude, the captor turned host. | Act 16:15; Rom 12:13; Heb 13:2; 1 Pet 4:9
  - b. Faith without works of love is dead. | Jms 2:14-26; Php 1:9-11
7. Rejoice in the Lord | v. 34b
  - a. The Jailer’s joy was not in himself or Paul, but in the Lord Who saved him. | Rom 15:8-13
    - i. Some things are worthy of our anxiety (cf. 1 Cor 7:32-34; 12:25; Php 2:19-20), but when our joy is in the Lord our salvation isn’t one of them. | Php 4:4-7

The Jailer’s cry, “What must I do to be saved?”, echoes the deepest longing within each of us. This morning we’ve witnessed the answer unfold: surrender, hear, believe, repent, be baptized, and live a life poured out in love. It’s a journey that begins with acknowledging your need for a Savior and recognizing that you can’t save yourself. So don’t silence the cry of your heart. If you’re searching for meaning, for purpose, for freedom from the chains that bind you, then turn to Jesus. He’s waiting with open arms, ready to embrace you, graciously forgive you, and give you eternal life. Don’t wait another moment. Believe in Him, surrender to Him, and experience the life-changing power of His salvation.