

The question, "What must I do to be saved?", in those exact words, is found but one time in the bible, Acts 16:29-30. But the same question is posed in other words in Acts 2:37-38; Acts 9:6 (KJV); and Acts 22:10.

Too, the primary role of the Bible is (1) to show man that he is lost and in need of salvation, (2) to bring him to want to ask that question, (3) to provide him with the answer to that question, and (4) to exhort him to follow the answer to that question.

THE PERSON WHO SINCERELY ASKS THE QUESTION, "WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?" ACKNOWLEDGES FOUR FACTS:

1. The fact that **he is lost**, separated from God by sin, in danger of eternal separation and punishment, and in need of salvation or forgiveness by God. This the Bible plainly shows in 1 Kings 8:46; Ecclesiastes 7:20; Isaiah 53:6; Romans 3:9-12, 22-23; Isaiah 59:1-2 and John 8:21. But this is contrary to the doctrine of **ORIGINAL SIN** which maintains that we are lost as a result of Adam's sin and need to be saved from that.
2. The fact that **he can be saved**, that salvation is available to anyone who is lost and in need of it. This the Bible teaches in John 3:16; 1 Timothy 1:15; Titus 2:11-12; 1 John 2:1-2; 1 Timothy 2:3-4. But this is contrary to Calvinism which teaches (1) the unconditional salvation of only certain ones chosen arbitrarily by God, and (2) that Christ died only for these chosen ones (**UNCONDITIONAL PREDESTINATION & LIMITED ATONEMENT**).
3. The fact that there is **something for him to do** to be saved, some conditions to meet. This the Bible declares in such places as Matthew 7:21; Ecclesiastes 12:13; Acts 10:34-35; Hebrews 5:8-9; Acts 9:6; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-8. But this is also contrary to Calvinism with its doctrine of **HEREDITARY TOTAL DEPRAVITY** which teaches that man is born totally depraved and unable to do anything good or right. It is also contrary to the doctrine of salvation by faith only, which teaches that man is not and cannot be required to do anything to receive salvation (erroneously concluding that this would be *merited* salvation).
4. The fact that **he can do what he must do**, that he is able to respond to God's offer of salvation by grace and to meet God's conditions of pardon. This the Bible manifests in passages like Matthew 13:14-15; 23:37; Acts 2:40-41; 1 Peter 2:22; 1 John 5:3; 1 Corinthians 10:13. But this, again, is contrary to Calvinism's **TOTAL DEPRAVITY**.

Let us be wary of the doctrines of men and be certain that we are following Bible teaching.