

“What Must I Do To Be Saved?”

by Bill Crews

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and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord” (Acts 22:16). “And he arose, and was baptized” (Acts 9:18). He also learned from Ananias what he was to do after that.

In none of these instances were these inquiring sinners told, “Why there’s nothing for you to do because it has all been done for you. You simply need to accept by faith the eternal salvation which Jesus has already purchased for you.” On the contrary, they all heard or learned the truth (the gospel, the word of the Lord), believed it, repented of their sins, and were baptized in obedience to Christ their Savior. Acts 8:37 and Romans 10:9-10 add to this confessing with the mouth Jesus as Lord or as the Christ, the Son of God. And all of this accords perfectly with what Jesus taught in giving the great commission (please read Mark 16:15-16; Luke 24:46-47; and Matthew 28:19-20), with what others are said to have done in the book of Acts, a book giving many examples of how lost people were saved (please read Acts 8:12-13; 8:35-39; 10:22; 11:13-14; 10:34-43,47-48; 18:8), and with what is said in other New Testament passages (please read Matthew 7:21,24-27; Romans 6:16-18; 6:3-4; Hebrews 5:8-9).

Don’t Be Fooled!

by Wayne Goff

Jesus and His apostles repeatedly warned faithful disciples of the danger of being deceived by false doctrine. To the disciples Jesus said while He was on earth, *“Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees” (Matt. 16:6).* They mistakenly believed He was referring to actual **bread**, when in reality He was referring to their false doctrine (v. 12)! In their own naivety and ignorance, they could be led astray. They would have been *honest*, but *honestly deceived*. Now if one can be honestly deceived and still be okay with God, then why did Jesus warn them?

Again Jesus said to those who would listen, *“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves” (Matt. 7:15).* This time Jesus describes false teachers as those who **pose as faithful brethren**, but who are in reality **wolves!** The apostle Paul likewise warned, *“For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works” (2 Cor. 11:13-15).* It should be abundantly evident that such false teachers are a great danger to the sincere, honest disciples of Christ! How many souls will be lost eternally because they were deceived and led astray by those they thought were sound teachers?! What a tragedy, but we have been warned.

What makes such false teachers dangerous is that they are wise enough to give the people what they want — easy, quick and absolute salvation. So they wrap up their false doctrine in beautiful words of deceit, smile as they do so, and draw the masses to them. The people who follow should be studying their Bibles to see if what is being taught is the truth or error (Acts 17:11). But many are too intellectually lazy to put forth the effort. They think within themselves such thoughts as “Well, he seems like such a nice guy. Surely he wouldn’t lead me the wrong way!” Or “This many people can’t possibly be wrong!” But this kind of thinking just compounds the problem. Now we have gone from reasonable, rational, logical thinking to emotional wish-wash! **Take heed and beware!**

Just prior to the fall of the nation of Judah, God succinctly stated the spiritual problem of His people through the words of Jeremiah the prophet: *“The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests rule by their own power; and My people love to have it so. But what will you do in the end?” (Jer. 5:31).* Did you catch that, dear reader? **What will you do in the end?** Be sure your salvation is true, biblical, and eternally fire-proof!

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