

“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God...” (1 Peter 4:11).

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

Hoyt Houchen

Paul and Silas were in prison at Philippi (Acts 16:18-24). Even though severely persecuted, they *“were praying and singing hymns to God and the prisoners were listening to them”* (Acts 16:25). There was a great earthquake, the prison doors were opened, every one’s bands were loosed, and the jailor supposing the prisoners had escaped, drew his sword and was about to kill himself. He fell down before Paul and Silas, and brought them out and said, *“Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”* (Acts 16:26-30).

THE QUESTION.

WHAT— it was a question.

MUST— it was asked of necessity. It was not what MAY I do, but what MUST I do?

I— a personal pronoun. It is not what somebody else must do, but what must I do?

DO— there is something that must be done.

TO BE— to attain salvation.

SAVED— he was lost. What must I do to be SAVED?

THE ANSWER. Acts 16:31, *“Believe on the Lord Jesus, and thou shalt be saved, thou and thy house.”*

1. The jailor was not told to JUST believe or ONLY believe,

but BELIEVE.

2. He was not told that there was nothing that he could do, because God had foreordained that certain ones will be lost and certain ones will be saved unconditionally.

3. He was not told that he would have to wait for some direct, incomprehensible, inconceivable, mysterious operation of the Holy Spirit that is “better felt than told” before he could believe.

WHAT HE DID.

1. He believed *“the word of the Lord which was spoken to him with all that were in his house”* (Acts 16:32; Rom. 10:17).

2. He repented. *“He took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes”* (Acts 16:33; 2:38).

3. He acknowledged *“the Lord Jesus”* (Acts 16:31; 8:37; Rom. 10:10).

4. He was baptized (Acts 16:33; 22:16; Mk. 16:16).

THE RESULT. He *“rejoiced greatly, with all his house, having believed in God”* (Acts 16:34). This is saving faith.

**HAVE YOU OBEYED GOD?
DO IT NOW!**

The Lord commissioned His apostles, *“Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature”* (Mk. 16:15). The gospel was preached for the first time on Pentecost as recorded in Acts 2. Let’s notice some great things about this gospel meeting.

A GREAT DAY. The first gospel meeting took place on *“the day of Pentecost”* (Acts 2:1). Pentecost was the annual festival at which the Jews presented to God the first fruits of the harvest. Pentecost always came on the first day of the week (Lev. 23:15-16). Hence, this meeting occurred upon the first day of the week.

A GREAT PROMISE RECEIVED. The Lord promised the Holy Spirit to the apostles (Jn. 14:26). The apostles received this promise on Pentecost as *“they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance”* (Acts 2:4). This served to guide the apostles *“into all truth”* (Jn. 16:13).

A GREAT CITY. The first gospel meeting took place in the city of Jerusalem (Acts 2:5). Hundreds of years before this meeting, Isaiah prophesied, *“for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem”* (Is. 2:3). The Lord said, *“And that repentance*

**THE FIRST
GOSPEL MEETING**
John Edwards

and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning in Jerusalem” (Lk. 24:47). A great deal of planning and preparation went into this meeting!

A GREAT CROWD. “Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven” (Acts 2:5) were present at the first gospel meeting. Many languages of people were represented (Acts 2:9-11). These Jews had come from all over the world to observe the festival of Pentecost. Though they were devoutly religious people, they were still required to come under the command of the preaching in order to receive pardon. So must we!

A GREAT SERMON. Peter preached “Jesus of Nazareth” to this audience (Acts 2:22-36). He declared the life, death, burial, resurrection, ascension, and exaltation of Jesus Christ. The sermon was simple and to the point!

A GREAT QUESTION ASKED. The effect of the sermon was a deep and penetrating conviction that

brought out of them the question: “Men and brethren, what shall we do?” (Acts 2:37). We should have the attitude of what would God have me to do?

A GREAT PLAN OF SALVATION GIVEN. In Peter’s answer to the question asked, he gives the Lord’s great plan of salvation. “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins” (Acts 2:38).

A GREAT RESPONSE. In this meeting, “about three thousand souls” responded to the sermon by being baptized (Acts 2:41) and were added to the church by the Lord (Acts 2:47).

What a great gospel meeting!

HOW A CHRISTIAN IS LIKE A TREE

John Edwards

The Bible likens Christians to many things. This writing is a look at how we are like a tree. It

is written, “And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water; that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither” (Ps. 1:3).

A TREE IS PLANTED. The Psalmist declared, “And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water” (Ps. 1:3). Christians have also been planted. Paul wrote, “For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection” (Rom. 6:5).

A TREE IS ROOTED. A tree is anchored by its roots. Christians are “Rooted and built up in him (Christ)” (Col. 2:7). The Christian who is not rooted properly will fall away when the storms of life beat upon him (Lk. 8:13).

A TREE GROWS. Nature demands that a tree grow and God demands that a Christian grow (1 Pet. 2:2; 2 Pet. 3:18).

A TREE IS FRUITFUL. The tree “bringeth for his fruit in his season” (Ps. 1:3). The Christian must bear fruit to the glory of God (Jn. 15:1-8).

The Terre Haute SPEAKER is published weekly by the church of Christ at Terre Haute, Indiana.

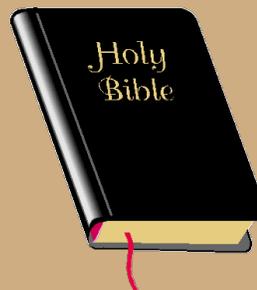
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