

COVID-19 & Your Salvation

While in the hospital I saw an ad by Franklin Graham telling people there is a way not to worry about this covid-19 crisis. However, he is telling them all they have to do is say this prayer to save their soul. This is a false doctrine since this prayer is not found in the bible and God has told us specifically what we must do to be saved. In Jesus own words in **Mark 16:16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved**; but he that believeth not shall be damned. Now just ask your high school English teacher and they will tell you “and” is a conjunction putting just as much importance on baptism as is on believing. However let us explore occasions of salvation in the book of Acts. In Acts chapter two after the first gospel sermon the people there were pricked in their heart since they knew they were guilty of murdering the only begotten son of God. In Acts 2: 37 they ask men and brethren what we must do? Verse 38 tells them the answer. Act 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, **Repent, and be baptized** every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. Here again we have a conjunction putting as much emphasis on baptism as on repentance. In all the examples of conversion in the book of Acts baptism is shown to be required. I want to look in particular at the conversion of Saul of Tarsus, later called Paul. I would encourage you to read the whole chapter of Acts 9 with particular attention to verse 11 And the Lord *said* unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and enquire in the house of Judas for *one* called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth, now if prayer would save the alien sinner then Paul would have been saved. Now look at Acts 22 where Paul is recounting this occasion in his defense and look in particular at verse 16. Act 22:16 And now why tarriest thou? Arise, and be **baptized, and wash away thy sins**, calling on the name of the Lord. We find in Acts 2:38 that remission of sins was at baptism, and then we see Paul being told baptism would wash away his sins. These two occasions alone show baptism is for the remission or removal of past sins for the alien sinner. Prayer by Paul before his baptism did not save him he had to obey God’s command to believe and be baptized (Mark 16: 16) to have his sins removed just as those on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2: 38. Now open your bible to Acts 16: 25-33 and see how the Philippian jailer was saved. As you will see Paul and Silas were praying and singing praises to God and there was a great earth quake and all the doors of the prison were open, the guard thinking the prisoners had escaped prepared to kill himself but Paul with a loud voice

stopped him. In verse 30 the jailer asks what must I do to be saved? Verse 31 Paul answers that question and this is where most denominational people stop. Act 16:31 And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. However, let us see the rest of the story. Act 16:32, 33 And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house.:33 And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed *their* stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway. How could he believe unless he heard the word of God (Rom. 10: 9-17) He heard, believed and was baptized. We will look at one more conversion that is found in Acts 8, this is the Ethiopian Eunuch. Open your bible to

Acts 8: 26- 39. Note Act 8:35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. We don't know exactly all Philip preached to him but we can know for sure he was told of his need for baptism. Act 8:36 and as they went on *their* way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, *here is* water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? *Some things we can conclude from this is, this man was traveling and one can see the need of carrying water with him so why did not Philip either sprinkle him or pour water over him and call it baptism?* But they stopped the chariot and went down into the water. Act 8:37 And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. **And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.**

Act 8:38 And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. The English word baptism is not a true translation it is a transliteration so I will give you Strong's English /Greek explanation. baptizō

bap-tid'-zo

From a derivative of G911; to *makewhelmed* (that is, *fully wet*); used only (in the New Testament) of ceremonial *ablution*, especially (technically) of the ordinance of Christian *baptism*: - baptist, baptize, wash.

I challenge you to not take my word or anyone else's word on what one must do to be saved but open your bible and see for yourself what the bible says. I would be happy to study with anyone about God's plan not man's plan of salvation. You can call me and we can make arrangements to study together. I realize in these times it will have to be by phone or on the computer but we will work it out. My can be reached number is 816-229-2021 Leland L. Reed