

How Souls Were Saved In the Book of Acts

<u>Preaching</u>	<u>Believed</u>	<u>Repented</u>	<u>Confessed</u>	<u>Baptized</u>
Pentecost	Believed, 2: 36	Repented, 2: 38		Baptized, 2: 38
Samaria	Believed, 8: 12			Baptized, 8: 12
Eunuch	Believed, 8: 37		Confessed, 8: 37	Baptized, 8: 38
Saul				Baptized, 22: 16
Cornelius	Believed, 10: 43			Baptized, 10: 48
Jailer	Believed, 16: 31	Repented, 16: 33		Baptized, 16: 33
Lydia	Believed, 16: 14			Baptized, 16:15

<u>Preaching</u>	<u>Faith</u>	<u>Repentance</u>	<u>Confession</u>	<u>Baptism</u>
Rom. 1: 16	Rom. 10: 17	Acts 17: 31	Rom. 10: 9, 10	Gal. 3: 27

We meet on James M Harvell Rd next to the public library in Navarre.
Call for directions and more information (850) 939-8109

Assembly Schedule
Sunday
Bible Class for all ages ___ 9:00 AM
Morning Worship Service ___ 10:00 AM
Evening Worship Service ___ 6:00 PM
Wednesday
Bible Class for all ages ___ 7:00 PM

VISITORS ARE WELCOME!

If you know of someone who would like to receive this publication, please let us know.

For a free Bible correspondence course by mail, call us.

Navarre church of Christ
8490 James M Harvell Rd
Navarre, FL 32566

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NAVARRE MESSENGER

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Accept Jesus, Or Obey Him?

by Michael Garrison

We often hear supposed "Christian" teachers say that in order for a lost person to be saved, all they need do is "accept Jesus as your personal Savior." When asked where Jesus or His apostles ever taught this, they are at a loss. It is a popular doctrine, but one not taught by God's inspiration.



total of the requirements of God, Matt. 6:33; (d) religious duties, Matt. 6:1... "In the preaching of the Apostles recorded in Acts the word has the same general meaning..." (Ibid.)

So, the idea taught is obedience to God's will. We see man is active, not passive, in his own salvation. The one who does what God demands is acceptable to God - but if one does not DO what God requires,

he is NOT acceptable to Him. It is so easy to say "I accept Jesus as my personal Savior", but the Lord will NOT accept this person until and unless obedience to His will is carried out.

IS THAT ALL?

But, once one has been accepted of God, what? He must keep on being acceptable! Hear apostle Paul: "Wherefore we labour, that whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him" (2 Cor. 5:9).

WHAT IS TAUGHT?

The God inspired New Testament teaches that lost people must become acceptable to the Lord.

The apostle Peter taught the first Gentiles the gospel, he nowhere told them to accept Christ as their personal Savior. Peter did teach them, "of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons; But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him" (Acts

10:34-35). 'Feareth' means "to show reverential fear...of God" (W. E. Vine Expository Dictionary). 'Worketh' signifies "to work something, produce, perform..." (Ibid.) The word 'righteousness' "is the character or quality of being right or just" and "is found in the sayings of the Lord Jesus, (a) of whatever conforms to the revealed will of God, Matt. 5:6,10,20; John 16:8,10, (b) whatever has been appointed by God to be acknowledged and obeyed by man, Matt. 3:15; 21:32; (c) the sum

The word 'labour' here means "to seek after honour, and hence, to be ambitious, is translated "we labour," marg., "endeavor" (R.V., "we make it our aim," marg., "are ambitious")..." (Ibid.) The word 'accepted' means "well-pleasing" (Ibid) We should be able to see that if an apostle of Christ had the ambition to be well-pleasing to the Lord, we should also! And it should encourage us to "fear him and work righteousness."

WE MUST OBEY CHRIST!

This brings us to the fact that we must OBEY Christ!

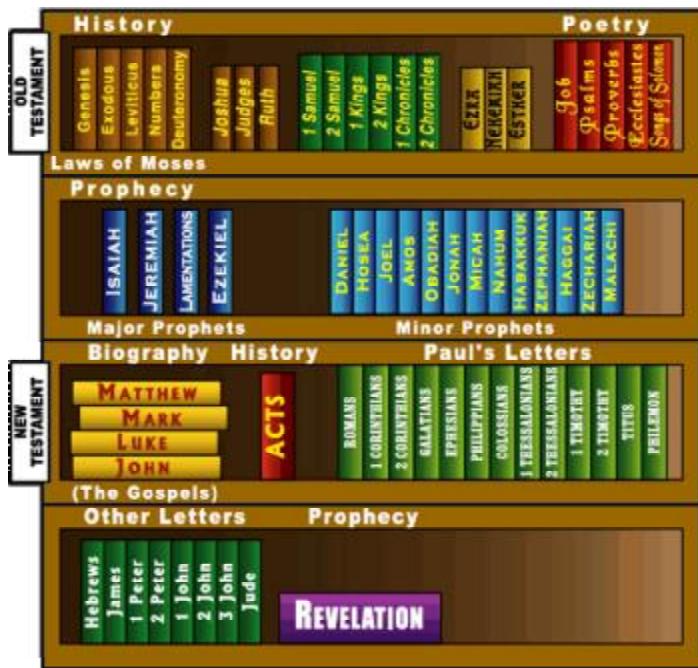
The inspired word of God instructs us that "though he (Jesus) were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him..." (Hebrews 5:8-9).

[Note: we point out that nowhere do we read Jesus is the author of salvation to those who "accept him as their personal savior," or "who only believe." Nor do we learn we are saved "by grace or faith only." Such ideas are not found in the Word of Truth God has given to us.]

Let us be content with just what the Scripture says!

Before returning to heaven, Jesus sent His apostles into all the world to preach the saving gospel to every creature. He said "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved" (Mark 16:15-16). Will you believe what the Bible says, or will you fight it and seek salvation on your own terms and not the Lord's?

The decision is yours; why not obey the Lord and be acceptable to Him?



The "Library" that we call the Bible:

The entire Bible—66 books

Old Testament—39 books
 5 called "The Law"
 12 history books
 5 books of poetry
 12 books of prophets

New Testament -27 books
 4 gospel accounts
 1 book of history
 21 books of letters
 1 book of prophecy

All written over a 1600-2000 year period by about 40 different men, from different walks of life, in different places, but the entire book has one stamp upon it, that of the Holy Spirit. (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:21)

What I Know About the Holy Spirit

By A.C. Grider

This article would be too long if I were to try to tell you what I do not know about the Holy Spirit. Besides, I can not tell you what I do not know about it; for I do not know what all I do not know. So I am setting forth a few things that I do know concerning the Holy Spirit.

I know that the Holy Spirit is not an "it" or "an influence" or "the mind of God" or "the New Testament." Rather, the New Testament, and the Old Testament as well, plainly set forth that the Holy Spirit is a person. Attributes ascribed to the Holy Spirit belong only to a person or persons. For instance, the Holy Spirit has knowledge. This is declared in 1 Corinthians 2:10-11. The Holy Spirit knows the mind of God. But the Holy Spirit wills to do certain things (1 Cor. 12:11). And the Holy Spirit has a mind (Romans 8:27). Persons know, and will, and have a mind. Hence the Holy Spirit is a person.

The actions of the Holy Spirit declare in no uncertain terms that He is a person. The Holy Spirit hears (John 16:13); He speaks (1 Timothy 4:1); and He makes intercession (Romans 8:26-27). But a person can hear and speak and make intercession. So, I repeat, the Holy Spirit is a person.

I know that the Holy Spirit has a

sword and that this sword is the Word of God (Ephesians 6:17). It is evident, therefore, that the Spirit works through the word.



I know that to be filled with the Spirit (Eph. 6:18-19) is the same as letting the word dwell in us (Colossians 3:16). These are parallel passages, as everyone can plainly see.

I know that God dwells in us. The Bible tells me so (1 John 4:13, 15). But I also know that Christ dwells in us (Eph. 3:17). The Bible tells me that the Holy Spirit also dwells in us (Rom. 8:9; 1 Cor. 3:16).

I know that Christ dwells in our hearts by faith (Eph. 3:17). In the absence of any teaching to the contrary, I know that the Holy Spirit, as well as God, also dwells in our hearts by faith.

I know the Holy Spirit testifies (John 15:26), but that He testifies through the word (John 5:39). I know the Holy Spirit saves (Titus 3:5), but that He

saves through the Word (James 1:21). I know the Holy Spirit teaches (1 Cor. 2:13), but that He teaches through the word (2 Timothy 3:16-17). I know the Holy Spirit comforts (Acts 9:31), but that He comforts through the word (1 Thessalonians 4:18).

I know that I could go on and on showing that whatever the Holy Spirit does, He does it through the Word. I know, therefore, that while the Holy Spirit works, He works only through the word of God. And I know that while the Holy Spirit dwells in us, He does so only through the word of God.

I know that a lot of people are doing a lot of speculating about the Holy Spirit and His words and His deeds. But I know that we had better confine our teaching concerning the Holy Spirit to just what the Bible says on the subject and give more heed to what we should do to obey our Heavenly Father than what He (the Holy Spirit) has done, is doing, or shall do.

Let us all strive to be filled with the Spirit (Eph. 5:19), to be led of the Spirit (Galatians 5:18), and to walk after the Spirit (Romans 8:1). But let us be reminded that we can accomplish this if we will follow the teachings of the New Testament.

