

Do you want to be saved? Only one time, in the entire Bible, is the question asked. "What must I do to be saved?" (Acts 16:30). In the next verse (Acts 16:31) the question is answered, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

HEAVEN'S
ETERNAL

Life's Short
Death's Sure
Eternity's Long
And,
"There Ain't No
Exits In Hell."

HELL'S
ETERNAL

No Man Knows,
How Soon It Is Too
Late

"Thou shalt not take the Name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh His Name in vain."

Exodus 20:7

Any way that you use God's Name, the Lord's Name, Jesus'Name, other than in a Holy manner, is taking His Name in vain.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16

Acts 2:21 and Romans 10:13 indicate that, "whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." In the next verse, Romans 10: 14 it says, "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed?" Believing precedes calling upon the name of the Lord. Jesus Himself said in John 14:6 "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." God reaffirms this truth in I Timothy 2:5 saying "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus." When someone says "repeat this prayer after me to be saved" it is making people feel like they have to "do" something to be saved, other than believing. If someone is asked to say a prayer to be saved, the person who says the prayer is still on his way to hell, after repeating the prayer, if he hasn't believed in his heart. Nowhere in the Bible is it found that a person has to pray a prayer to be saved. God does not hear a prayer unless you go to God in the name of Jesus Christ, The Only Mediator between God and man. Jesus Christ is not your Mediator unless He is your Lord and Savior. So according to God, the steps are, first, you believe in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. By believing as Acts 16:31 indicates, you are saved! Acts 16:30, 31 is the only time in the Bible where the question is asked, "what must I do to be saved?" God answering through Paul said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved." By being saved, Jesus Christ is your Lord, Savior, and Mediator between God and yourself. Now you can pray to God, because you have the Mediator, Jesus Christ.

I believe that when a person "prays" to God, without being saved; his prayer goes no higher than the ceiling, and God probably says,

"Who do you think you are, to think that you can come to Me, without coming to Me, in the only possible way that I have set out in My Word? For you come to Me, through My Only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ, the One and Only Mediator between you and Me." You don't just pull Jesus Christ out of the air, and say today I want You to get me to God, be my go-between for God! It doesn't work that way. Jesus Christ is either, your Lord and Savior, making Him your Mediator, or, if Jesus Christ is not your Lord and Savior, He is not your Mediator. I believe it is very important to stress that you are saved by believing only. John 3:16, probably the most quoted verse in the Bible says that, "whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Again, this passage clearly prescribes believing, not repeating a prayer. In John 3:4, Nicodemus asks Jesus, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?" He was asking this in regard to Jesus' statement in

John 3:3, which a man needs to be born again. Jesus' answer in John 3:5 and following is "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." Nowhere does Jesus say, pray to be saved, it is always believe.

Years ago, I heard Dr. Donald Grey Barnhouse say "I'm deeply offended when I hear a prayer that does not end with the idea that God must be approached only through the Name and the Being of the Lord Jesus Christ." Ephesians 1:13 "In whom (Christ) ye also {trusted}, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise." Romans 10:9 tells us "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." "For with the heart man believeth (first) unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession (next) is made unto salvation." How many people have gone to hell or are going to hell by putting their trust in the ungodly "pray the sinners prayer" or "repeat this prayer after me", instead of believing. John 3:36 "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him." Luke 23:39-43 tells us "And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us (40.)" But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? (41.) "And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss. (42.) And he said unto Jesus, Lord; remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. "And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise." In these verses in Luke we see that a man was saved by believing only. The malefactor did not, and was not instructed by Jesus, to pray, to receive salvation. He said unto Jesus, "Lord remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. (43.)" And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, today shalt thou be with me in paradise." You don't fool Jesus. Jesus knew that this man believed in Him; that this man believed that this Jesus that he was talking with was the Lord, The Messiah, the Only Begotten Son of God, the Savior, and in believing, the man was saved. Now if you think that you have to pray first, repeat first, or anything first, before believing, why did Jesus tell the him "today thou shalt be in with Me in paradise?" OR if there is a need to do for anything to go along with believing why didn't Jesus tell him what that was? Jesus doesn't make mistakes! God's Word is true. You don't (really you can't), add to or take away from God's Word, and it be true. Just leave His Word alone, and do what God said, believe. Psalm 119:89 "For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven." Revelations 22:18,19 ""For I testify unto every man that hearth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: "And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the

things which are written in this book." Take your Bible and check the references that we contained herein - nothing added to and nothing taken away; and when you hear "the plan of salvation" from anyone, get your Bible out and see if it is God speaking or "someone's" idea. I can't see "ten steps" to salvation; I can see only one step believe. The malefactor on the cross, had but one step, and he took it. You, I, we all have "one step," believe. Please take it, and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ for your salvation.