

# Know Your Bible

## Correspondence Course

### Lesson 3

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As Edited by Ashley Goosen for use with the NASB.

## I. WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

Of all the important questions of a lifetime, this one is the most important. My happiness here below and my eternal welfare depend on a correct answer to the question. It seems strange that the vast majority of mankind goes rushing madly through life giving little or no thought to the salvation of their souls. Let us not be like the majority, but let us search the scriptures for God's answer to our soul's need.

Let us notice some basic considerations:

1. Man cannot save himself - "Jeremiah 10:23 *"I know, O LORD, that a man's way is not in himself; Nor is it in a man who walks to direct his steps."* The sinner cannot dictate to God what he will do to save himself. Neither morality nor good works are sufficient to save the soul Titus 3:5. Preachers cannot devise a creed or catechism that will be of any benefit.



2. We must recognize Jesus as the Saviour - "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me." - John 14:6.

3. We must submit ourselves to the will of God - "*and it shall be told you what you must do.*" - Acts 9:6. Many come to the Bible, find God's answer, and then refuse to do it! Others hear what they must do, but obey only those requirements that seem reasonable to them, leaving undone divine requirements of equal importance.

## THE GREAT COMMISSION

Let us hear the words of our Saviour. After His resurrection, and just before His ascension, Jesus gave command to the apostles that they must preach the Good News concerning salvation to the whole world. Here are the three gospel records:

19 *"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in*

And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. "He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned. - Mark 16:15-16

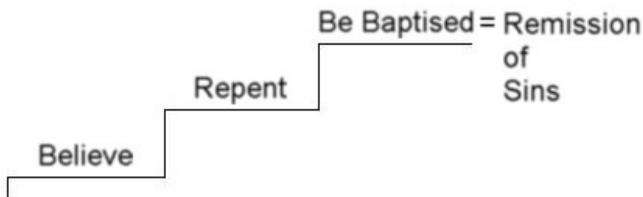
If we summarize these accounts, here is what Jesus requires:

Matthew 28: 19 - Teaching and Baptism.

Mark 16:15, 16 - Preaching, Believing, Baptism

Luke 24:47 - Preaching, Repentance, Remission of Sins

Placing these in their logical order, we see that as sinners hear the Gospel preached, they are required to:



## QUESTIONS ON SECTION I.

### FILL IN THE BLANKS

1. "It is not in \_\_\_\_\_ that walks to direct his \_\_\_\_\_.
2. "Not by works of righteousness, which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of the Holy Spirit." 3. \_\_\_\_\_ is the way, the truth, and the life.
4. "He that \_\_\_\_\_ and is \_\_\_\_\_ shall be saved."
5. "Repentance and \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ should be preached in His name among all \_\_\_\_\_."

### UNDERLINE THE CORRECT ANSWER

1. Jesus is 1. **The only way** 2. **One of the ways**, to salvation.
2. Preachers 1. **Can** 2. **Cannot** devise a way of saving man.
3. To be saved, man 1. **Must obey GOD'S will** 2. **Need not do anything**.
4. Repentance 1. **Is necessary** 2. **Is not necessary** to salvation.
5. A man should be baptized 1. **Before** 2. **After** hearing and believing the Gospel.

## II ACTS - THE BOOK OF CONVERSIONS

At Christ's ascension, He commanded the apostles to wait in Jerusalem until they received heavenly power. This occurred shortly as the Holy Spirit came upon them at Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4). Peter and the eleven were enabled to speak in tongues (foreign languages), and so amazed a great crowd that had gathered. After showing that the coming of the Holy Spirit was in fulfilment of Joel's ancient prophecy (Joel 2:28-30), Peter then proceeded to speak to the people about their own needs.

## **NOW READ ACTS 2:22-47**

Peter began by proving the divine Sonship of Jesus. His main proof was the resurrection of Christ, and this he showed by quoting the prophecies of David as found in the Psalms. Peter declared that Jesus had now ascended to the right hand of God, having received great authority, and was made both Lord and Christ.

The climax was reached when Peter's audience, pricked in their hearts, said to the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" Here is the inspired reply: "Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. - Acts - 2:38. Note that Peter faithfully required the same things Jesus had commanded in His commission. Those seeking forgiveness must: repent and be baptized to receive remission of sins.

Some people say that there is nothing man can do to save himself, that God must do everything. But Peter, through the Holy Spirit, exhorted the people saying: "Be saved from this perverse generation!" Acts 2:40. " Verse 41 shows how this was accomplished: "These that received his word were baptized."

## **QUESTIONS ON SECTION 11**

**TRUE OR FALSE** (Circle correct answers)

1. T F The events of Acts 2 were the fulfilment of Old Testament prophecy.
2. T F Peter could not convince the Jews of Christ's divine Sonship.
3. T F Peter's audience asked: "Men and brethren, what shall we do?"
4. T F Repentance, but not baptism, is necessary for remission of sins.
5. T F Peter said: "Save yourselves from this perverse generation."

## **III THE EUNUCH -- Acts 8:26-40**

Acts 8 has two examples of conversion. The first, found in verses 1-12, tells how the Samaritans upon hearing Philip preach Christ unto them, believed and were baptized. The latter case is found beginning with verse 26. You are asked to begin with verse 26 and read to the end of the chapter.

In this interesting account we find our subject an unusual man: An Ethiopian eunuch of great authority (he would be equivalent to our Minister of Finance) and yet a religious man, he had come to Jerusalem to worship, And was returning and sitting in his chariot reading Isaiah the prophet. A great man, a religious man, this was a man God wanted to save. An angel called Philip from his labours in Samaria and sent him out to a deserted spot where he saw a chariot coming along. The Holy Spirit told Philip to go join the chariot. The eunuch invited him up and Philip began to explain the Scriptures to this seeking individual.

The eunuch was reading from the prophet Isaiah in the section now designated chapter 53. Though writing more than 700 years before Christ's birth, Isaiah was inspired to graphically picture His suffering and death. However, as the eunuch read, he was puzzled. His question to Philip Acts 8:34 "Please tell me, of whom does the prophet say this? Of himself, or of someone else?"

" Philip began here " . . . and preached Jesus to him."

Though we do not have Philip's sermon, its results are clearly stated.

As they rode along, they came in sight of water. The eunuch had been sufficiently taught to know what he must do to obtain forgiveness of sins. At his request for baptism, he had first to confess his faith in Christ (see also Romans 10:9, 10). Then, the chariot was stopped, both the preacher and the eunuch went down into the water and he was baptized.

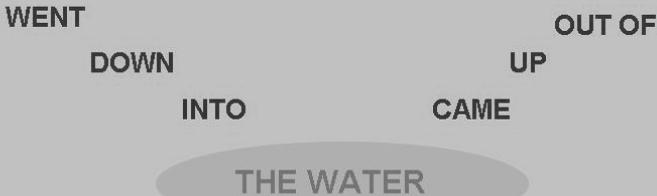
His work done, Philip was caught away by the Spirit and the eunuch went on his way rejoicing. What a wonderful experience he had to relate when he reached Ethiopia. Perhaps this is the way the Gospel first came to be preached in East Africa.

**Notice this Bible explanation of Baptism**

The Ethiopian eunuch was baptized. The inspired Record leaves no doubt as to what occurred.

New Testament Baptism is a complete *immersion* in water

Both Philip and the eunuch:



**"One Lord, one faith, one baptism" - Ephesians 4:5**

## QUESTIONS ON SECTION III

### TRUE OR FALSE (Circle correct answers)

1. T F The eunuch, being a religious man, was saved before Philip preached to him.
2. T F Isaiah foretold the sufferings and death of Jesus.
3. T F Philip preached Jesus to the eunuch.
4. T F The eunuch confessed his faith in Jesus.
5. T F The eunuch rejoiced before he was baptized.

### FILL IN THE BLANKS

1. "But an \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord spoke to Philip."
2. Isaiah's prophecy concerned the suffering and death of \_\_\_\_\_.
3. "Look! \_\_\_\_\_! What prevents me from being \_\_\_\_\_?"
4. Both Philip and the eunuch \_\_\_\_\_ into the water.
5. Philip asked, "Do you \_\_\_\_\_ what you are reading?"

## IV THE CONVERSION OF SAUL

One of the most noteworthy accounts of conversion is recorded in three chapters of Acts: chapters 9, 22, 26. All three accounts should be studied. In Acts 22, Paul gives a personal account of how he became a Christian, and it is this chapter we now refer to.

Dealing with the chapter by sections, we find:

**VERSES 3-5 --** Paul's statement of how he was zealous for Moses' law and persecuted Christians even unto death. With this purpose in mind, he set out for Damascus.

**VERSES 6 - 11 --** These verses tell of the Lord's appearance and its effect on Saul. Just before they reached Damascus, about noon, a great Light shone around him and a voice from heaven spoke to him. Saul's questions are two: "Who art Thou, Lord?" and "What shall I do, Lord?" To the latter he is told: 'Arise and go on into Damascus; and there you will be told of all that has been appointed for you to do.' "Being now blind, and led by the hand, Saul is brought to Damascus, where we are told (Acts 9:9) he spent three days fasting and in prayer (9: 11).

**VERSES 12 - 15 --** These verses now tell us of the appearance of Ananias, who is sent by the Lord to tell Saul what he must do. First of all, Ananias restores his sight, then he tells him that he must be a witness of Christ to all men.

**VERSE 16 --** This verse contains the command to be baptized: "and now why do you delay"? Arise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on His name." Saul did not hesitate to obey - (9: 18) and thus this great persecutor found the forgiveness of sins.

Since so many say, "I want to be saved just as Paul was," it will be wise to ask ourselves just what Paul had to do to be saved. There was, first of all, the miraculous over which Paul had no control: the appearing of Christ, his blindness, God's appearing to Ananias. These were "one time only" events

and are not found again during other conversions during that time period or today. But, let us notice some things over which Paul did have control and see how he reacted.

- 1) **He turned from unbelief to belief.** Some might say, "Well, he had no choice in the matter," but in reality he did. He could have denied the vision, as many Pharisees before him had denied strong proofs of Christ's Sonship. Instead, he said, "I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision" - Acts 26: 19.
- 2) **He repented.** This is seen both in his fasting and prayer and also in his change of life after baptism. The primary meaning of repentance is "a change of mind." Truly, no one ever had "a change of mind" more radical than did Paul.
- 3) **He was baptized.** The words of Ananias are, "Arise and be baptized and wash away thy sins" - 22: 16. This he did immediately - 9: 18.

## QUESTIONS ON SECTION IV

### TRUE OR FALSE (Circle correct answers)

1. T F There are three chapters in Acts which record Saul's conversion.
2. T F Saul thought he was doing wrong when he persecuted Christians (see also Acts 26:9, 10).
3. T F Christ told Saul to go into Damascus in order to learn what he must do to be saved.
4. T F Saul was saved outside Damascus, as soon as he saw the heavenly vision.
5. T F Saul was saved only after baptism.

### FILL IN THE BLANKS

1. Saul asked, "what shall I \_\_\_\_\_ Lord?"
2. "Arise and go on into \_\_\_\_\_."
3. \_\_\_\_\_ was a devout man according to the Law.
4. "The God of our fathers has appointed \_\_\_\_\_ to know His will and to see the \_\_\_\_\_, and to hear an utterance from His mouth.
5. "Now why do you \_\_\_\_\_? Get up and be \_\_\_\_\_, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.'

## V THE CONVERSION OF THE JAILER - Acts 16

Years after his conversion, Paul found himself persecuted for the cause of Christ. Acts 16 tells how he and Silas were put into prison for doing good - Vss. 1624. Though cruelly beaten, they were not discouraged.

About midnight as they were praying and singing hymns to God, a great earthquake shook the prison and they were set free. The jailer, supposing his prisoners had escaped, drew a sword to kill himself. But, Paul called "Do yourself no harm, for we are all here!" "The jailer, trembling with fear, went in to them and brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" Vss. 31-34 record his conversion:

- 1) He is told to **believe** in the Lord Jesus - vs. 34.
- 2) The word of the Lord is **preached** to him and his family that they might know what to believe - vs. 32.
- 3) He and his family were **baptized** immediately - vs. 33.
- 4) They rejoice - vs. 34.

The jailer was not saved by faith **alone**. He had to obey all the commands of the Great Commission. When Paul told him to believe (vs. 31), he was pointing out that faith is essential to salvation. But faith alone will not save anyone (James 2:20, 24. It must be a faith that will obey, as the jailer and his family obeyed.

## QUESTIONS OF SECTION V

**TRUE OR FALSE** (Circle correct answers)

1. T F Paul and Silas were beaten for wrong doing.
2. T F The jailer only had to believe in order to be saved.
3. T F The jailer both believed and was baptized.
4. T F The jailer and his family decided to delay baptism because it was so late at night.
5. T F You see that a man is justified by works, and not by faith alone.

## SUMMARY

The book of Acts was written to show how people became Christians. It is the Great Commission in action. As we study these sermons of inspired preachers we find exactly what they told sinners to do:

- 1) Believe in Christ - Acts 16:31.
- 2) Repent of sins - Acts 2:38.
- 3) Confess faith in Christ - Acts 8:37, Romans 10: 10
- 4) Be baptized to wash away sins - Acts 22: 16.

## QUESTIONS ON SUMMARY

1. List the four things necessary to salvation.
  - a) \_\_\_\_\_ Acts 16:31.
  - b) \_\_\_\_\_ Acts 2:38.
  - c) \_\_\_\_\_ Acts 8:37; Romans 10: 10.
  - d) \_\_\_\_\_ Acts 22:16.
2. Do you think a person can be saved by just believing? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_
3. Do you think baptism is necessary to salvation? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_
4. How long should a person delay in obeying the Lord's commands?  
\_\_\_\_\_.

## Plan of Salvation as given in the Book of Acts

Heard Gospel	Believed	Repented	Confessed	Were Baptised	Blessings
Three Thousand 2:1-47		Repented 2:38		Baptized 2:38, 41	Sins forgiven - Holy Spirit 2:38
Samaritans 8:50	Believed 8:12			Baptized 8:12	
Simon 8:13	Believed 8:13			Baptized 8:13	Saved Mark 16:15, 16
Ethiopian Eunuch 8:26-40	Believed 8:37		Confessed 8:37	Baptized 8:38	Went on his way rejoicing 8:39
Saul 9:1-18; 22:1-16				Baptized 22:16	Sins washed away 22:16
Cornelius 10:1-48; 11:1-17	Believed 15:7			Baptized 10:48	Was Saved 11:14
Lydia 16:14,15				Baptized 16:15	
Jailer 16:25-40	Believed 16:31, 32			Baptized 16:33	Rejoiced 16:34
Corinthians 18:8	Believed 18:8			Baptized 18:8	Washed, saved 1 Cor. 6:11; 15:2

**Hearing + Belief + Repentance + Confession + Baptism = Salvation from Sin**

### WHAT ABOUT YOU?

As you study this lesson, has the conviction grown within you that your "conversion" does not match the ones in Acts? Possibly you need to take the first step in believing. Maybe you were not informed concerning the importance of baptism. Whatever your need, we stand ready to assist you in becoming a New Testament Christian. **This is too important a matter to delay.** Please, let us hear from you now.

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