

Lesson 5

What Are We Supposed To Do?

In view of what sin has done to man, we can see it is not possible for man to come to God. But in the last lesson we saw how God has come to man. Now there is something man must do to take advantage of what God has done. In **Acts 16:22-34** we read a story of Paul and Silas who were beaten and placed in prison because of preaching in the name of our Lord. But about midnight there was a great earthquake so that the foundations of the prison were shaken and the prisoners were free to go. The jailer, thinking that everyone had fled, was about to take his own life. Paul called out to him telling him they were all still there. The Jailer then asked Paul a very important question, "**sirs, what must I do to be saved?**" and the answer was, "**Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you shall be saved,**" (**vs. 30, 31**). This is the answer to what we are supposed to do.

GOD SO LOVED – WHOEVER BELIEVES!

These two aspects are seen in one verse in John 1:16, "**For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.**"

First, we see that God so loved the world. We might ask, how does God love? The answer is that He loves the world so much that He gave the greatest gift of all, His own Son. Then comes our part, we are the whoever that believes. This means everyone and anyone. Any person in the whole world can put their name in place of the whoever and know that they are included. Whoever believes will not perish but will have eternal life. Eternal life means forever and ever. Since God does not lie, we can take Him at His word that by believing in His Son we will live with Him forever (**John 14:13**).

WHAT IS IT TO BELIEVE?

If we are to believe in order to have eternal life then it is very important that we understand what it means to believe. We know from **Romans 10:9-10** that believing is done in the heart. Another word which is very important is the word faith. We see from **Ephesians 2:8**, that it is by grace and through faith that we are saved. Faith can be defined as believing in something we cannot attest to with our five senses. We believe there is a God, for example, even though we cannot see Him. But saving faith is more than just believing something is true. For example, we might believe an airplane can take us to a distant city. We might believe that it is true that the airplane is safe, mechanically sound, and that the pilot is qualified to take us to that city. But what do we have to do before that airplane will take us to that city?

Of course, we have to get on it, we must enter into the airplane. And this is what the word 'believe' means. Once you are on the airplane you are committed to the airplane. Whatever happens to the airplane happens to you. In the same way, whatever happens to the Lord happens to us. The wonderful thing about believing in the Lord Jesus is that because we are in Him we will live forever. Because He lives we will live (**John 14:29**). So saving faith is believing to the point of committing or trusting ourselves to the Lord Jesus Christ

BUT NOT OF WORKS

We must emphasize that the way in which we get to heaven is by faith (believing) in Christ alone to save us. Some people still think it is a matter of trying to do the best they can. Others think that faith in Christ will save them but they must do works to keep on being saved. So it is important for us to understand what we read in **Ephesians 2:9**, "**not as a result of works, that no one should boast.**" In the first place there is no work that we can do that would merit God's favor, "**all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment;**" (**Isaiah 64:6**). In the second place there is no boasting in heaven. (can you imagine what heaven would be like if everyone there was bragging about all they had done to get there. Well, it would not be heaven for very long, it would be more like hell.

There will be no boasting in heaven because everyone will know the only reason they are there is because of the grace of God. We will be in heaven because we have believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, we are trusting Him to save us and Him alone!

DON'T WE DO GOOD WORKS?

Everyone knows that a Christian is to do good works, Since we are saved by faith in Christ this does not mean we continue our old life style. When we put our faith (believe) in Christ we are born again (**John 3:3-7**). This means we become a new creature, the old life is passed away and now we have a new life in Christ (**II Corinthians 5:17**). Because of this new life that we have in Christ, we do the things that Christ would do. In **Ephesians 2:10** we read, "**For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works,**". When we were born in sin we sinned because we were sinners. But now that we are born again in Christ, we do good works because we are in Christ (Christian). We do good works because we are Christians, not so we can become one. In our next lesson we will see how our eternal security is based upon what God has done and not upon what we have done.

Bible Reading: Ephesians 2:1-10

Questions for Review:

1. Since God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, what are we supposed to do about it'?
2. What does this tell you about the love of God?
3. Can anyone believe in the Lord Jesus? Why or why not
4. What does it mean to believe?
5. When we believe in the Lord, we are committed to Him and so what happens next?
6. Is it possible to work our way to heaven? Why or why not?
7. Why will we not boast in heaven?
8. Why do Christians do good works'?
9. What are you trusting in to get you to heaven?