**BIBLE - THE PLAN OF SALVATION MADE SIMPLE**

***1 CORINTHIANS 1:18 – TEXT***

**INTRODUCTION** – Is the plan of salvation revealed in the bible to difficult for us to understand? Not really but man tends to complicate matters that are simple. He does that because he rejects the wisdom of God – **1 COR. 1:18** – ***“For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.”***

**2nd Slide**

If you listen to the wisdom of men it seems as if all will be saved. Is this type of thinking confirmed to be true according to the scripture?

**MATT. 7:13-14** - ***"Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. 14 Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.***

1. The Bible actually describes two types of people in the world- saved – unsaved.
2. Into what category does the bible say most people will fall?

**3rd Slide**

In regard to who is saved and who is lost what is the dividing line? It is referred to in the Bible as salvation, as forgiveness or the remission of sins.

Before we begin the study we must to ask two important questions.

1. When it comes to salvation, the remission of your sins and forgiveness which side of the line are you own?
2. How did you get on that side of the line? Make sure if you are studying with someone you get them to write this down on a piece of paper which you will refer to later in the study.

**4th Slide**

What does the Bible have to say about those who are saved?

**ACTS 2:46-47 - ... *And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, 47. Praising God, and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.***

1. The Bible is very clear that the Lord adds all who are saved to the church.
2. Being saved and being in the church are the same thing, yet many today say they are saved but do not need to be a member of any local church. This type of thinking is quite common but it is not true according to the scriptures.

**5th Slide**

The Bible also speaks of the body of Christ. What is its importance? Let’s see what the Bible has to say.

**EPH. 5:23 *- For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.***

**COL. 1:24 *- I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church***

1. The bible makes it clear the church and the body of which Christ is the head are one in the same.

**6th Slide**

When we begin to contemplate how we get from the unsaved or lost side to the saved side. We must first talk about the grace of God for without it we could not possibly obtain salvation. Is grace important?

**EPH. 1:7-8 - *in Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace 8 which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence,***

1. Those who are in Christ, his body, the church, and have the forgiveness of sins only because of God’s grace.
2. Where would we be without the grace of God? LOST!!!!!

**7th Slide**

**EPH. 2:8-9 - *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.***

1. Salvation is freely available for all but it is only provided to us thru grace.
2. For any gift to be of any benefit it must be accepted, opened and used. I.E. – Birthday gift
3. Notice it is grace on God’s part but it involves faith on our part.

**8th Slide**

**HEB. 11:6 - *But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.***

1. Is faith required by God?
2. Faith and believing are essentially the same thing they both involve trust. The question is do you trust God? Do you believe?

**9th Slide**

**JN. 3:16 *- For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.***

1. We can have “everlasting life” if we believe in Jesus.
2. Yet does believing and having faith put us across the line?
3. What is the bible answer?

**10th Slide**

**JAMES 2:14-19 *- What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? 17 Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. 18 But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. 19 You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe--and tremble!***

1. This passage proves we cannot be saved by faith only. It takes more to be saved.

**11th Slide**

**ACTS 3:19 *- Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,***

**ACTS 17:30 *- Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent,***

1. We must never forget that we are saved by grace thru faith.
2. But it must be a faith that is strong enough to lead us to repentance. This is often the most difficult command for men to obey!!!

**12th Slide**

**LUKE 13:5** - ***I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish."***

1. Repent means to turn. It is similar to reverse in a car. Repentance helps us to head in a different direction.
2. True biblical repentance is accompanied with godly sorrow.

**13th Slide**

**ROM. 10:9-10 - *that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.***

1. Our faith must be strong enough to lead us to confess.
2. We must confess our faith in Christ. It is not confessing our sins!!!
3. Let us look at a bible example of one confessing their faith in Christ.

**14th Slide**

**ACTS 8:37 *- Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."***

1. But does confession put us across the line of salvation?
2. Was the man in Acts 8 saved when he confessed Christ?
3. Let’s look at the rest of the story.

**15th Slide**

**ACTS 8:26-39 - Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, "Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is desert. 27 So he arose and went. And behold, a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace the queen of the Ethiopians, who had charge of all her treasury, and had come to Jerusalem to worship, 28 was returning. And sitting in his chariot, he was reading Isaiah the prophet. 29 Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go near and overtake this chariot." 30 So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, "Do you understand what you are reading?" 31 And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he asked Philip to come up and sit with him. 32 The place in the Scripture which he read was this:**

**"He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; And as a lamb before its shearer is silent,**

**So He opened not His mouth. 33 In His humiliation His justice was taken away,**

**And who will declare His generation? For His life is taken from the earth."**

**34 So the eunuch answered Philip and said, "I ask you, of whom does the prophet say this, of himself or of some other man?" 35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him. 36 Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, "See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?" 37 Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." 38 So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him. 39 Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing.**

**16th Slide**

The Ethiopian Eunuch’s faith was strong enough to lead him to baptism.

Let’s consider five important points about this Bible example.

**17th Slide**

**We can learn the following things from the story in ACTS chapter 8**

1. The eunuch had traveled a great distance (hundreds of miles) to worship at Jerusalem. He was studying the word of God. Yet, he was **not saved** even though he was a religious person.
2. The eunuch requested to be baptized though it does not say Philip said anything about baptism. Thus, we must conclude that baptism was covered when **“Jesus was preached”** in the first century.
3. The eunuch recognized the urgent need to be **baptized immediately.**
4. First century baptism was not sprinkling or pouring, because it would not have been necessary for Philip and the eunuch to have gone **“down into the water.”**
5. The eunuch went on his way **“rejoicing”** after he had been baptized.

**18th Slide**

At this point we must ask three important questions.

1. How do we take advantage of this free gift or sacrifice from God?
2. How do we get our sins taken away?
3. How can we know our sins are washed away?
4. The only way to know for sure is to follow what the bible tells us to do!!!

**19th Slide**

**MARK 16:15-16 - *And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.***

1. According to Jesus - Faith or believing plus baptism equals salvation and that puts us over the line

**20th Slide**

**ACTS 2:38 - *Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.***

1. Repenting and being baptized equals the remission of sins and that puts us over the line.

**21st Slide**

**GAL. 3:26-27 - *For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.***

1. In baptism we put on Christ. Why must we put on Christ? Because that is where salvation is!!!
2. If you put on Christ then you are in the body of Christ, the church. Remember the saved are added to the church so you are in a saved condition.

**22nd Slide**

**ACTS 22:16 - And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.'**

1. Baptism washes away our sins.
2. The blood of Christ washes away our sins at baptism. We contact the blood of Christ when we are baptized.
3. Therefore our sins are not and cannot be washed away until we are baptized.

**23rd Slide**

**1 PET. 3:21 - *There is also an antitype which now saves us--baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,***

1. Peter tells us by inspiration that baptism saves us.
2. We are saved because Jesus was resurrected. If Jesus had not been raised from the dead there would be no hope of salvation.
3. Note what Paul taught the Christians at Corinth.

**24th Slide**

**1 COR. 15:1-4 - *Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, 2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you--unless you believed in vain. 3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,***

1. The gospel is the good news that Jesus died for our sins, was buried and raised never to die again.
2. The Christians at Corinth had believed and been baptized into Christ – **ACTS 18:8 - *Then Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his household. And many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed and were baptized.***

**25th Slide**

**ROM. 6:3-4** ***- Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.***

1. When you believe repent and confess your faith in Christ you must put to death the old man and he is buried in baptism.
2. Baptism is a watery grave and corresponds to the death, burial and resurrection of Christ.
3. This is the biblical way to be born again. Paul said we are a new creature in Christ – **2 COR. 5:17** ***- Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.***

**26th Slide**

**JN. 8:31 - *Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.***

1. Even after we cross the line and are on the saved side we must continue to abide in the word.

**1 JN. 1:7 - *But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin****.*

1. To continue in fellowship with God we must continue to walk in the light.

**REV. 2:10** ***- Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.***

1. God promises to those who are faithful to death a crown of life.

**27th Slide**

**MATT. 7:21** – You cannot enter the kingdom of God unless you do the Father’s will - "***Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.***

**JN. 14:15 - *"If you love Me, keep My commandments.*** Do you love the Lord? Then you will keep his commandments, but I do not think baptism is important. What does God say?

**ROM. 6:17** ***- But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered.*** We must obey from the heart that form of doctrine – the pattern given to us in the bible so we can be saved.

**HEB. 5:8-9 - *though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. 9 And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,*** Jesus is the author of salvation to all those who obey him. The question is have you obeyed him? Ask then at this point what they wrote as their answers to the two questions at the beginning to the study.

**CONCLUSION** –

**Christ died for the UNSAVED.** His grace is available to all mankind!!!

**Salvation comes by the BLOOD OF JESUS.**

**We are saved only after we are WASHED IN HIS BLOOD.**

**We contact the BLOOD when BY FAITH we are BURIED WITH CHRIST IN BAPTISM FOR THE REMISSION OF OUR SINS.**

**God does not wish that any should PERISH.**

**THE BIBLE IS CLEAR – For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord … (Romans 6:23).**

**What is your condition? Are you saved – have you crossed the line or are have you not yet done what the bible requires in order to cross the line into salvation the remission of your sins and forgiveness.**

**Take care of your souls whatever its condition is tonight!!!**