

The Plan of Salvation

God has revealed his plan for the salvation of the world in the scriptures. All of us can understand and obey God's plan. Isaiah wrote, "And a highway shall be there, and a way and it shall be called the way of holiness; . . . it shall be for *the redeemed*: the wayfaring men, yea fools, shall not err *therein* (Isa. 35:8)." God welcomes and His son calls every weary, sin-sick soul, "The Spirit and the bride say, Come. And he that hears, let him say, Come. And he that is athirst, let him come: he that will, let him take the water of life freely (Rev. 22:17)."

God centered his plan for saving us from sin and death on His son Jesus Christ. Jesus lived a sinless life, died for sinners at the hands of sinful men, and demonstrated his power over sin and death in his resurrection. John wrote, "Jesus said unto him, I am the way, and the truth, and the life: no one comes unto the Father, but by me (John 14:6)." Peter affirmed this principle of salvation, "In none other is there salvation: for neither is there any other name under heaven, that is given among men, wherein we must be saved (Acts 4:12)."

The Bible teaches that God has one plan of salvation. Just as there is one saviour, Christ, there is one plan of salvation. Paul taught the unity and oneness of God's plan in Eph. 4:4-6, "*There is one body, and one Spirit, even as also ye were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all, and through all, and in all.*" The conversions in the book of Acts emphasize the oneness of God's plan for salvation. Each example of conversion gives the same plan and the same requirements for salvation (Acts 2, 8, 10, 16, 18, and 22). This plan of salvation leaves no room for the deviations and systems which men devise.

God's gave all authority to His son Jesus (Matt. 28:18). Therefore, Jesus has the right to command the terms upon which he will save us. Jesus and his inspired apostles stated the response that we must make to receive the blessings offered by his plan of salvation. The Bible teaches us exactly how to respond to the Lord's plan of salvation. We must hear the word of God in order to have faith (Rom. 10:17). Faith comes by hearing and without faith, it is impossible to please God (Heb. 11:6). Based on our faith, we must repent and turn to God (Acts 2:38; 3:19). God requires that we confess our faith in Christ Jesus (Rom. 10:9-10). We are to be baptized into Christ to put on Christ and for the remission of our sins (Gal. 3:27; Rom 6:3-4; Acts 2:38).

God's plan of salvation includes living faithfully in Christ and his church unto the point of death (John. 15:1-6; Tit, 2:11-14; Rev. 2:10).