



EXPLORING CHRISTIANITY

STRAIGHT ANSWERS TO ULTIMATE QUESTIONS IN A RELAXED SETTING



Introduction

According to Christianity, there is a choice that we all face.

SALVATION IS BY GRACE

*Salvation is by grace alone,
through faith alone,
in Christ alone.*

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast” (Ephesians 2:8-9).

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand;
repent and believe in the gospel” (Mark 1:15).

“Then he brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”
And they said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved,
you and your household” (Acts 16:30-31).

“ . . . testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God
and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ” (Acts 20:21).

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

Week 5

1. Turn to Jesus (Repent)

a. What is repentance?

To "repent" means to stop going in one direction, to turn around, and to go in a completely new direction.

The prodigal son: a portrait of biblical repentance (Luke 15).

b. Turn from what?

Biblical repentance always involves a turning away from sin.

"Repentance is a heartfelt sorrow for sin, a renouncing of it,
and a sincere commitment to forsake it and walk in obedience to Christ"
(Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, 713).

Real change, but not perfection.

"The difference between an unconverted and a converted man is not that the one has sins and the other has none; but that the one takes part with his cherished sins against a dreaded God, and the other takes part with a reconciled God against his hated sin" (William Arnot, *Laws from Heaven for Life on Earth*, 311).

- c. Turn to what?

Biblical repentance always involves a turning to Jesus Christ.

"[Jesus] died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised" (2 Corinthians 5:15).

Costly, and worth it.

"For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it" (Luke 9:24).

2. Trust in Jesus (Believe)

- a. Affirm the truth about Jesus

"If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved" (Romans 10:9).

- b. Personally depend on Jesus

"Saving faith is trust in Jesus Christ as a living person for forgiveness of sins and for eternal life with God"
(Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, 710).

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

Week 5

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God” (John 3:16-18).

THE CHOICE WE ALL FACE

“The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead” (Acts 17:30-31).

“‘For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate” (Luke 15:24).

“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost” (Luke 19:10).

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Exploring Discipleship

Wednesdays, Nov. 30 – Dec 21st; Jan. 4th – 25th

6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Clifton Baptist Church