

Proverbs 3:5



Words To Find: "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding."

Safe in the Ark

D. L. Moody

The voice came down from Heaven to Noah, "... Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation." Noah was outside the ark, and in a short time after he built it, he was inside; and by being inside he was saved from the destruction of a world-wide flood.

As long as he was outside of the ark he was exposed to the wrath of God, just like the rest of the people. If he stayed out, and remained with them, he would

have been swept away, as they were. It was not his righteousness; it was not his faith; nor his works that saved him. It was the ark.

We do not, like Noah, have to be one hundred and twenty years in making an ark for our safety. God has provided an ark for us, and the question is, "Are you inside or outside this ark? Have you trusted Christ alone for your salvation?" If you have, then you are 'saved'; and you are inside; and you are safe. If you are not 'saved', then you are outside; and you are not safe.

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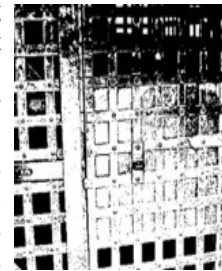

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What Must I Do to Be Saved?

Bill Brinkworth

"And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? 31 And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house." Acts 16:30-31

After being awakened out of sleep, the jailer knew something unusual had happened, perhaps even miraculous. He instantly saw the gates, that were rusted from the dungeon's constant dampness and always difficult for him to even open, were all shook wide open by an earthquake. His first assumption was that while he slumbered, all his charges had escaped. If that were true, then the authorities would surely require his life for those of the escapees. To avoid their torturing him and the humiliation he and his family would receive, he immediately



purposed to end his own life.

Just as his thoughts were to become a reality, a steady, soft-spoken voice from the dank darkness broke the prison's silence by commanding, "Do thyself no harm: for we are all here."

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Salvation Is a Gift

Salvation is not earned; it is a gift from God to all that will receive it:

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16

"But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many." Rom. 5:15

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Rom. 6:23 Also: Eph. 2:8.

What Must I Do to Be ...

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Immediately, captives' testimonies and lifestyles, offered a simple, but had-to-be true reason for what had happened while he slept; God had done a miracle by opening the gates for His people. In quick milliseconds, the keeper recalled his convictions over his own sins in the days past while he heard the imprisoned Christians quoting Scripture, singing hymns while they should have been fearing for their own lives; and their extraordinary behavior that made these captives much different than anyone he had ever observed. He knew God was involved in his prisoners' lives, and what had just happened in the prison; and the man immediately feared for his own soul's eternal destiny. Quickly, the frightened guard blurted out, "... what must I do to be saved?"

Many people, at one time in their lives, also had an encounter that no explanation could explain, except that they knew God was involved. Maybe it was an escape from a car accident that they know should have ended in their death, except a godly intervention spared their life. Perhaps, another natural catastrophe, violent situation, or another terrible event had its apparent outcome averted at the last moment; and it was also clear that

only supernatural intervention could have altered what the obvious outcome should have been. It was at that time, perhaps for a very brief instant, like the jailer guarding over Paul and other Christians probably experienced, that their eternal destination became an immediate concern. Like the keeper, they too wondered, "What must I do to be saved?"

Perhaps at that instant, past "religious" exposure or training had them wondering, "If my doing good deeds will please God so He will let me go to Heaven, have I done enough?" Perhaps they even wondered if they had done all the deeds their religion required them to do, or if they should have done more "good" things. All man's reasoning and rationalizations are for naught, unless they line up with what the Bible declares is the only way to Heaven. That way was quickly revealed to the suicidal jailer by his godly captives, when they responded to the keeper's question, "... Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved ..." (Acts 16:31).

The only way anyone can get to Heaven is to believe that God's only Son, Jesus, died on the cross for their sins and paid the price for those sins with His own blood. His death is the only "good work" that will remove

one's condemnation for all his sins. It is ONLY this belief that will save anyone from a tormenting, eternal Hell. Have you believed on the Saviour's sacrifice for your iniquities, so that you might be saved?

Salvation — God's Gift

Harry Todd

*As you travel down life's highway
It's a broad road to destruction;
The Bible says that "All
have sinned"
And you must change direction.*

*Now you are helpless by yourself,
You are dead in trespasses
and sin,
God hates sin; Heaven is holy
Therefore you cannot enter in.*

*Someone must die because of sin,
It should be you and I,
But God loved the world
so much
He sent His only Son to die.*

*Now Jesus paid the sin debt
Upon dark Calvary's tree,
So you and I by simple faith
Are forgiven and set free.*

*By grace are ye saved
through faith,
Not of works or by any deed;
Salvation is a gift of God;
So of His Word you must
take heed.*

*He came unto His own
But they turned Him away,*

*Now you can be a child of God
By receiving Christ today.*

*Today is the day of salvation,
Tomorrow may be too late,
Behold! Now is the
accepted time,
Oh! Sinner, do not wait.*

Necessary and Enough

Dr. Harry Ironside

In a hospital ward, a lady missionary found an undersized and undeveloped little Irish boy, whose pale, wizened face and emaciated form burdened her heart for the boy. She spoke of his own soul's need, and he was made aware of his lost condition; insomuch that he seriously considered how he might be saved. Brought up a Catholic, he thought and spoke of penance and confessionals, of sacraments and church; yet never mentioning Christ Jesus and His atoning work. The two talked of what the Scriptures said, but he made no decision at the time for salvation.

The next morning the lady called upon him again, and found his face aglow with a new found joy. Inquiring the reason, he replied with assurance born of faith in the revealed Word of God, "O missis, I always knew that Jesus was necessary, but I never knew till yesterday that He was enough!"

"God paid the price; we keep the change (II Cor. 5:17)."

***You* contribute nothing to your salvation, except the sin that made it necessary." — Jonathan Edwards**