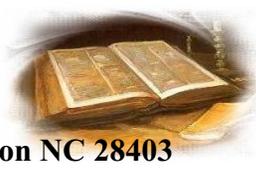


# THE EXAMINER

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## OLD TIME RELIGION ---- By J. D. Tant - Part 2

### Lesson Number 2 ---- WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

In our first lesson we learned how to study the Bible. In this lesson we go more fully into the question, "What must I do to be saved?"

One fundamental fact that every Bible student must understand is that no Bible subject is ever fully settled in one verse. If that were the case, there would be only one verse on each subject that the Bible mentions.

Many people will read one verse (for instance, **Acts 16: 31**) and declare that "man is saved by faith only," since God mentions only faith in this verse. They seem to forget that the same Paul told them to believe (**Acts 16: 31**) said also that "God commands all men everywhere to repent" **Acts 17: 30**. We must regard the one statement as being true just as the other is true.

So the only way we can safely reason on the plan of salvation, is to examine all cases of conversion; and find out what each man was commanded to do to be saved. After having done that, we put all the

several items together, and we have the answer. As all men are saved alike, each item that applies to any one man would apply with equal force to all men. Whatever any one man is commanded to do to be saved is a requirement laid upon all men. To illustrate this point, I state: "Man lives." You ask, "How?" A replies, "Man lives by breathing correctly;" B says, "Man lives by drinking correctly;" C says, "Man lives by eating correctly," and D says, "Man lives by sleeping." If A, B, C, and D were to argue like preachers do, one would say, "Man lives by breathing alone;" another would argue, "by sleeping only;" and the fourth would firmly contend that "man lives by drinking alone!" Thus they would have four different processes by which a man lives. It is this spirit, and this mistaken approach to Bible study which causes so many contradictory systems of salvation and so many different churches in our day. Each preacher and each church will take only a part of the Bible, and will ignore the other parts of it.

If each preacher would take all

the items he finds in the Bible, nothing more nor less, they all would preach and practice the same things. This, all can do if they will follow the admonition of Peter, "If any man speaketh, speaking as it were the oracles of Gad." (**I Peter 4: 11**) If all preachers would heed Peter's word, they would all say, "We are saved by faith." (**Acts 16: 31**) In talking on repentance, they would all say, "To the Gentiles also hath God granted repentance unto life." (**Acts 11: 18**) In talking on the confession they would all agree with the words of Jesus, "Everyone therefore who shall confess me before men, him will I also confess before my Father who is in heaven." (**Matt. 10: 32**) And in talking on baptism, they would all say with Peter that baptism "doth also now save you." (**I Peter 3: 21**) In finding all of these statements made concerning salvation, it is needful that ALL of them be considered as a part of God's plan of redemption for the race. Since all are converted or saved alike, whatever is required with equal authority of all men. The question, then, is, "What must I do to be saved?" Let us consider the answer:

First Peter said, "God made choice among you that by mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel, and believe." (**Acts 15: 7**) Paul said, "So belief cometh of hearing, and hearing by the word of God." (**Rom. 10: 17**) From these

verses we conclude that no man can believe and obey the gospel without first hearing and understanding the same. In the second place, we know that Paul taught men must believe in order to be saved. (**Acts 16: 31**) The third thing required is also set forth by that same apostle when he declares that "God commands all men everywhere to repent." (**Acts 17: 30**) When the Ethiopian eunuch desired to be baptized, Philip told him he could be baptized if he believed with all his heart. This led to the making of the "good confession" as set forth in **Acts 8: 37**. Paul also taught that, "with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." (**Rom. 10: 10**) Baptism "for the remission of sins" was enjoined by Peter in **Acts 2: 38**; the same thing was laid upon Saul by the mouth of the Lord's servant Ananias who said, "And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on his name." (**Acts 22: 16**) The above five items, hearing faith, repentance, confessing Christ and baptism for the remission of sins come into God's plan for every man. And no one should desire, or expect, to enter heaven without doing what God has ordained for all men to do. These items will save a man, make him a Christian - nothing more, nothing less.

**Lesson Number 3 ---- WHICH**

## CHURCH MUST I JOIN?

Before answering this question, it may be necessary to learn how many churches Jesus built. Then we can better understand which one to join. In **Matthew 16: 18**, Jesus said, "Upon this rock I will build my church and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it." In **Acts 2: 47**, likewise, the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved. In **Acts 20:28**, Paul teaches that Christ had purchased the church with his own blood; and in **Ephesians 1: 14** he calls the church a "purchased possession."

In the Roman letter Paul teaches that if a woman should have two living husbands, she is living in adultery (**Rom. 7: 3**); this applies with equal force to a man who may have two living wives. In the same chapter (**verse 4**) the apostle makes application of this principle to the church. He shows that the church is married to Christ. But to how many churches is Christ married? In **Ephesians 4:4**, Paul not only teaches that there is one Spirit, one Lord, one God, but declares also that there is ONE BODY. In the same book (**Ephesians 1: 22**) he says that this one body is the church. The same truth is also plainly stated in **Col. 1: 18, 23**. In **Ephesians 5:23**, he shows that the church sustains the same relationship to Christ that the wife sustains to the husband; and in **Ephesians 5: 30** he says that we are of his flesh and of his bones. This

settles forever, and without question, how many churches Christ established. It is just as sensible to ask a man which God he believes in as it is to ask him which church he belongs to. The same Bible which teaches there is one God teaches there is one church. Jesus in the days of his flesh taught that there would be one fold and one shepherd. (**Jno. 10: 16**) Paul stated that if any man preached any other gospel, he should be accursed. Realizing, then, that the Bible teaches there is one church, and only one, how am I today to tell which is the true church? Each church has, its own peculiar and distinctive doctrine which sets it aside from all other churches. A man would be considered more than silly if he should go around among his friends asking "Which is the Baptist church?", or "Which is the Methodist church?" The Baptist church is that church which teaches Baptist doctrine. Teaching Baptist doctrine will never lead a man to become a member of the Methodist church. If a man obeys the Methodist Discipline, he does not thereby become a member of the Presbyterian church. Each church teaches its own distinctive doctrine to convert men and women to that particular denomination. But for long centuries before there were any Methodist, Baptist, or Presbyterian churches in the world, the Bible they heard, they simply became Christians, and the Lord

added them to his church. The Gospel was being preached. Men heard the simple gospel of Christ from the sacred pages of that Book, they obeyed the things to his church. (**Acts 2: 47**) To preach the gospel of Christ, and let it alone convert men and women, will make them Christians only. No man was ever persuaded to become « Baptist, a Methodist, or a Presbyterian simply by believing and obeying the gospel of Christ. Neither did the Lord ever add a man to any of these churches. Each denomination sets its own initiatory rites and requirements; and none of these requirements is set forth in the Bible.

To what church, then, did the Lord add those people who simply obeyed the gospel? Jesus said, "I will build my church." (**Matt. 16: 18**) Luke said, "The Lord added to the church." (**Acts 2: 47**) Paul said, "The churches of Christ salute you:" (**Rom. 16: 16**) In this letter to the church in Corinth he addresses them as "the church of God at Corinth" (**I Cor. 1: 1, 2.**) Is it not clear, then that if you have obeyed the gospel, the Lord has added you to the ONE CHURCH, the church of Christ, which he built himself; and against which the gates of hell could not, and can not prevail! If, on the other hand, you are a member of some human church, Jesus declares, "Every plant which my Father has not planted shall be rooted up." (**Matt. 15: 15**) He says also, "In vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." (**Matt. 15: 9**) Are you a member of the Lord's church? If not, why not? via "Truth In Love" – March 1965 – Vol 25 Number 48

### STOP & SEE

WHERE ART THOU? - GEN. 3:9  
IN THE NARROW OR BROAD WAY? - MT. 7:13,14  
WITHOUT GOD-CHRIST-HOPE? - EPH. 2:12  
OUT OF CHRIST? - 2 COR. 5:17-ROM. 6:1-5  
IN A WAY THAT SEEMS RIGHT? - PROV. 14:12  
IN THE FAITH? - 2 COR. 13:5  
IN WAY OF RIGHTEOUSNESS? - 2 PET. 2:20-22  
A LIVING SACRIFICE? - ROM. 12:1,2



### OBEY

GOD - MT. 7:21- ACTS 5:29  
THE GOSPEL - ROM. 10:13-17- 2 THESS. 1:7-9  
FORM OF DOCTRINE - ROM. 6:17,18  
ETERNAL SALVATION TO OBEIENT - HEB. 5:8-9  
THEM THAT HAVE RULE - HEB. 13:17  
MAGISTRATES - TIT. 3:1- ROM. 13:1,2

### TURN

FROM WICKEDNESS - EZEK. 33:8-9  
FROM SIN - ACTS 3:19  
FROM SELF - L.K. 9:23  
FROM DARKNESS } ACTS 26:15-18  
TO LIGHT } 1 THESS. 1:9  
FROM SATAN }  
UNTO GOD }  
FROM INDIFFERENCE - MT. 7:26,27

### PERSEVERE

ADD PATIENCE - 2 PET. 1:5-8  
YE HAVE NEED OF PATIENCE - HEB. 10:36  
RUN WITH PATIENCE - HEB. 12:1,2  
FOLLOW AFTER PATIENCE - 1 TIM. 6:11  
BELIEVING TO SAVING OF SOUL - HEB. 10:39  
BE FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH - REV. 2:10