

## **Elements of Salvation**

**Acts 9:1-22, 22:1-16. & 26:9-19**

**Objective:** Teach the plan of Salvation as experienced by Paul.

**Reading:** Acts 9:1-22.

**Memory:** Acts 22:16, ***“And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.”***

**Introduction:**

1. We try to be acceptant of religious faiths. Especially those we call Christian. We want everybody to be saved. Especially those who genuinely believe in God.
2. Are they all saved, or not? What are the necessary elements of salvation?

### **We need to know what is involved in coming to Salvation.** (WHAT?)

Because we want to appreciate the love others have for God, because we want to endorse and encourage their faith and commitment to God, we are often in danger of becoming acceptant of things that are not really true, and of failing to hold on to some things that are true. In this regard, it is important that we occasionally review what the Scriptures teach as fundamental elements of salvation; even for “believers”! This morning, I want us to look at Paul’s own conversion experience and see what the elements of his salvation were. Our salvation needs to include the same essential elements. Read with me, and let’s understand those key elements of Salvation.

*The first element of salvation, essential to all, is a matter of...*

#### **I. Realization Of Truth.**

##### **A. Being good and being devoted to God is not sufficient.**

1. Paul was a good man. A God-fearing man. A religious man. Was that good enough? NO! He was lost and in need of Salvation. Cf. parallel to Sanhedrin in Acts 22:16, ***“And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.”*** He still has sin on him!
2. He believed in God! Was very fervent in his behavior and commitment. Belief in and of itself did not cleanse him from sin. He was a fervent believer, but was still lost!
3. It is possible to be wholeheartedly devoted to the wrong thing or in a wrong way! Perhaps some of the most God oriented people you know are still lost in sin??!!
4. Understand that people are not born and raised “saved”. Safe and sinless at birth, yes, but they do sin and then stand guilty and condemned by their own sin, therefore in need of a saving relationship with God.

##### **B. Paul came to a confrontation with Truth.**

1. Met Jesus on the road! Face to face with truth. A realization that he had been persecuting the Savior. Acts 22:8, ***“Who are you, Lord?...I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting,”***
2. Acts 23:1, ***“Paul looked straight at the Sanhedrin and said, “My brothers, I have fulfilled my duty to God in all good conscience to this day.”***
3. What I have been doing in good heart, with clear conscience has been wrong!!!!
4. A clear conscience does not excuse sin. He had been trying diligently to eradicate Christians, and Christianity, and with a clear conscience! He still had sin on his soul!

##### **C. We need to do the same; come to a confrontation with Truth.**

1. Have you dealt with truth? When, where have you dealt face to face with the concept of Christ?
2. Do we think it is good enough to be a believer? Have you really examined that?
3. Paul was saying “I was born a Jew, I’ll die a Jew!” We need to ask “Why?” Is my native born religion really Truth? Have I searched it out!
4. A saving relationship comes only through Christ! It needs to come as a result of one’s own realization and decision and commitment.
5. What TRUTH do you need to deal with? Yourself, or present to others?
6. That there is a God; a God who is watching you, knows even your secret things and who cares very much what you trust and how you behave.

7. That God is Creator, Owner, Lord, and worthy of all your respect and devotion.
8. That you have not been entirely serving and worshipping as you ought and you still stand LOST and in need of help because you have not personally entered a saving covenant relationship with the Savior?.
9. Is it True that you are NOT all right as you currently are and you need to do something about it.

*When Paul realized that his religious tradition had some error in it, that it had not brought him to full awareness of truth, Paul's immediate next step was...*

## **II. Repentance From Error.**

### **A. Realizing truth makes changes necessary.**

1. How did Paul have to change? What did he have to leave and abandon?
2. He had to admit that his parents, teachers, forefathers were not exactly right. A whole way of life. New friends. New perspective on Scripture. Disruption of schedule?; Sunday instead of Saturday?
3. What do you need to turn from? What things do you need to change to stand in Truth? New doctrines? New habits and behaviors?
4. What good does it do to learn TRUTH and still live in error? That is condemning!

### **B. Is it hard to make such a "turn" in your life?**

1. YES. Any turn is hard. Forces resist it. Inertia.
2. NO. Not if you realize / confess / admit the Truth; that your current path leads to death!
3. Determine to change and apply energy to change.

### **C. Realize your errors and turn from them.**

1. What have you done that was wrong before God? What are you doing that is wrong?
2. It is not always sufficient to simply stop doing it; there must be an apology acknowledgement.
3. i.e., Living in sexual immorality is no "fixed" by simply getting married. Especially if you would probably do it again in a similar situation. Must acknowledge the sin before God – possibly before peers. Confess = say what God says about it.
4. Hear essentials of repentance from 2 Corinthians 7:10-11, ***"Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death."*** <sup>11</sup> ***See what this godly sorrow has produced in you: what earnestness, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what concern, what readiness to see justice done. At every point you have proved yourselves to be innocent in this matter."***
5. Your own error might include actions, thoughts, attitudes. *DOCTRINES*.

*At this point Paul knows what he has been doing wrong and he knows where the truth lies. Note that he has wholeheartedly turned away from his erroneous ways with heartfelt sorrow over anything he has done wrong.(3 days of fasting and prayer) Note that he is STILL LOST! He still stands guilty in his sin. You cannot get into heaven with sin on you. How does Paul get rid of his sin? There needs to be appropriate*

## **III. Response To Truth.**

### **A. Obedience to the Message!**

1. Not his own "feelings" of what to "do", but to the "message". There is a god-given plan of how to be cleansed from sin. The "message tells us what to do.
2. The Message involved something Paul had to "do"; a response.
3. Acts 9:6, ***"Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."***
4. Sometimes people object to having to "do" something in order to be saved.
5. Repent is something the Word tells people they must "do". Luke 13:5, ***"...But unless you repent, you too will all perish."***
6. Confessing Him as Lord is something the Word tells us people must do. Romans 10:10, ***"For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."***
7. Continued faithfulness is something the Word tells us people must do. Colossians 1:22-23, ***"But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation—if you continue in***

***your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel.***  
(Obedience)

8. Romans 6:17-18, ***“But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted. You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.”***

B. The “message” carries God’s power to save.

1. Romans 1:16, ***“I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.”***
2. In cooperation with obedience to it; James 1:21, ***“Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.”***
3. Message needs to not only be heard, it needs to be obeyed. Responded to.

C. Paul’s first response to the message was his own physical baptism.

1. Acts 9:18, ***“Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul’s eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized,...”***
2. This is the very point in time that Paul’s sins were washed away! Acts 22:16, ***“And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.”***
3. Notice that water baptism is the God-designated way of “calling on His name”. Don’t miss it!
4. It is not simply an immersion in water. It is obedience response to Christ! It is calling on the name of Jesus. It is submitting to His authority. It is 1 Peter 3:21b, ***“...not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge (appeal) of a good conscience toward God.”***
5. The baptism was a pledge to walk with Christ with a clear conscience. To always do what is righteous and pleasing to God through Christ. To die to self and belong to Christ. Make Him Lord in every aspect for the rest of our lives. To be immersed, not just in water, but in His very will, in His very spirit.
6. We also each need to do the same.

#### **So What?**

Are you as earnest and sincere and dedicated as Paul was? As devoted as Paul was, he had to come to a true knowledge of Christ Jesus. He had to hear the Message of reconciliation and come to a realization of truth. He had to repent of wherever He was not in compliance with Christ. He had to make a definite life response to the Message. There are many reasons to hold back from full obedience to the Message. None of them are adequate or good. Please. Make a full and legitimate, on-going response to the Message. ***“And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.”*** Then continue to live a life of faithful following the Spirit of God.

#### **Closing Prayer:**

**Elements of Salvation**  
Acts 9:1-22, 22:1-16. & 26:9-19

**Reading:** Acts 9:1-22.

**Memory:** Acts 22:16

**“A\_n\_w\_a\_y\_w\_f? G\_u\_b\_b\_a\_w\_y\_s\_a\_c\_o\_h\_n.”**

**We need to know what is involved in coming to Salvation.**

Let's understand key elements of Salvation.

**I. Realization Of Truth.**

- A. Being good and being devoted to God is not sufficient. Acts 22:16
  
- B. Paul came to a confrontation with Truth. Acts 22:8 Acts 23:1
  
- C. We need to do the same; come to a confrontation with Truth.

**II. Repentance From Error.**

- A. Realizing truth makes changes necessary.
  
- B. Is it hard to make such a “turn” in your life?
  
- C. Realize your errors and turn from them. 2 Corinthians 7:10-11

**III. Response To Truth.**

- A. Obedience to the Message!  
Acts 9:6 Luke 13:5 Romans 10:10 Colossians 1:22-23 Romans 6:17-18
  
- B. The “message” carries God’s power to save. Romans 1:16 James 1:21
  
- C. Paul’s first response to the message was his own physical baptism.  
Acts 9:18 Acts 22:16 1 Peter 3:21b

**So What?**

Make a full and legitimate, on-going response to the Message.